

**STEWARDSHIP OF MIND**

**SCRIPTURES:** Genesis 39  
Luke 16:1-13  
Psalm 1  
Matthew 5:28-31  
Philippians 4:8

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:1, 2

**RESEARCH:** Interview five people regarding their attitude toward the way people think. Ask the following questions:  
Do you believe that a person's private thoughts reveal character?  
Is a person's behavior influenced by the way he thinks?  
Should a person try to control his thoughts?

This writer remembers struggling, as a young Christian, over a very important question, "Where does victory begin in the Christian life?" Does it begin in a thorough knowledge of the Word of God or in a deep, well-developed prayer life? Possibly greater victory comes in becoming a more consistent and zealous witness. The pendulum would swing back and forth between the Word and prayer.

One day, while thinking this through, it suddenly became clear that victory begins in the mind. Every action, every word has to come through our own consciousness. A controlled mind means a controlled life. If I were to have victory, I would have to think properly. The Word and prayer as well as right actions (the will coming into play), are all important to establishing the right thoughts, attitudes and motives. Decisions have to be made—decisions to allow certain thoughts and certain ways of thinking and decisions to reject other thoughts and other ways of thinking.

The world was wrong in its philosophy expressed in a popular song, "Brother, you can't be judged for what you're thinking." Not only can you be judged for what you are thinking, you will be judged for your thoughts, as well as your actions and words. We are responsible before God to use our minds as good stewards of the ability to think His thoughts after Him and to apply those thoughts to every area of human endeavor.

1. Compare the stewardship of Joseph (Genesis 39) and the unrighteous steward (Luke 16:1-13) in reference to the mind.

S42-2

2. How does Christ's statement in Luke 16:10 contradict the popular thought of today?

### **TRANSFORMED LIVING**

3. The word for transformed in Romans 12:2 is the same word used of Christ when He was transfigured—Mark 9:2, 3. It is the word “metamorphosis”. How can your life undergo a spiritual metamorphosis? Romans 12:2
4. How is the mind renewed? Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23, 24; Colossians 3:10

### **SELECTIVE THINKING**

5. How does Psalm 1 shed light on the process of renewing the mind?
6. How does the Word of God help establish proper thinking? Hebrews 4:12
7. How does Proverbs 23:7 support the thesis expressed in the introductory paragraphs of this lesson?
8. How does Christ apply that concept? Matthew 5:28-31
9. Will wrong thinking be brought into judgment? Matthew 5:28-31

10. What should be our goal as Christians, regarding the thought life?  
2 Corinthians 10:5
  
11. How would this differ from “brainwashing”?
  
12. How would the process of meditation in Psalm 1 prove that this is not brainwashing?
  
13. How does the process of meditation bring about a renewed mind and a transformed life? Philippians 4:8
  
14. Reconcile Philippians 4:8 with thinking on the sin and evil in the world.

### **AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**

15. How would each of the following verses help you put things in an eternal perspective?

Colossians 3:2

1 Corinthians 2:16

Philippians 2:5

**ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK:** In all your Bible reading and meditation, ask God to make you aware of wrong thought patterns and to help you establish new patterns. Record the results daily and share some examples with your discipler.