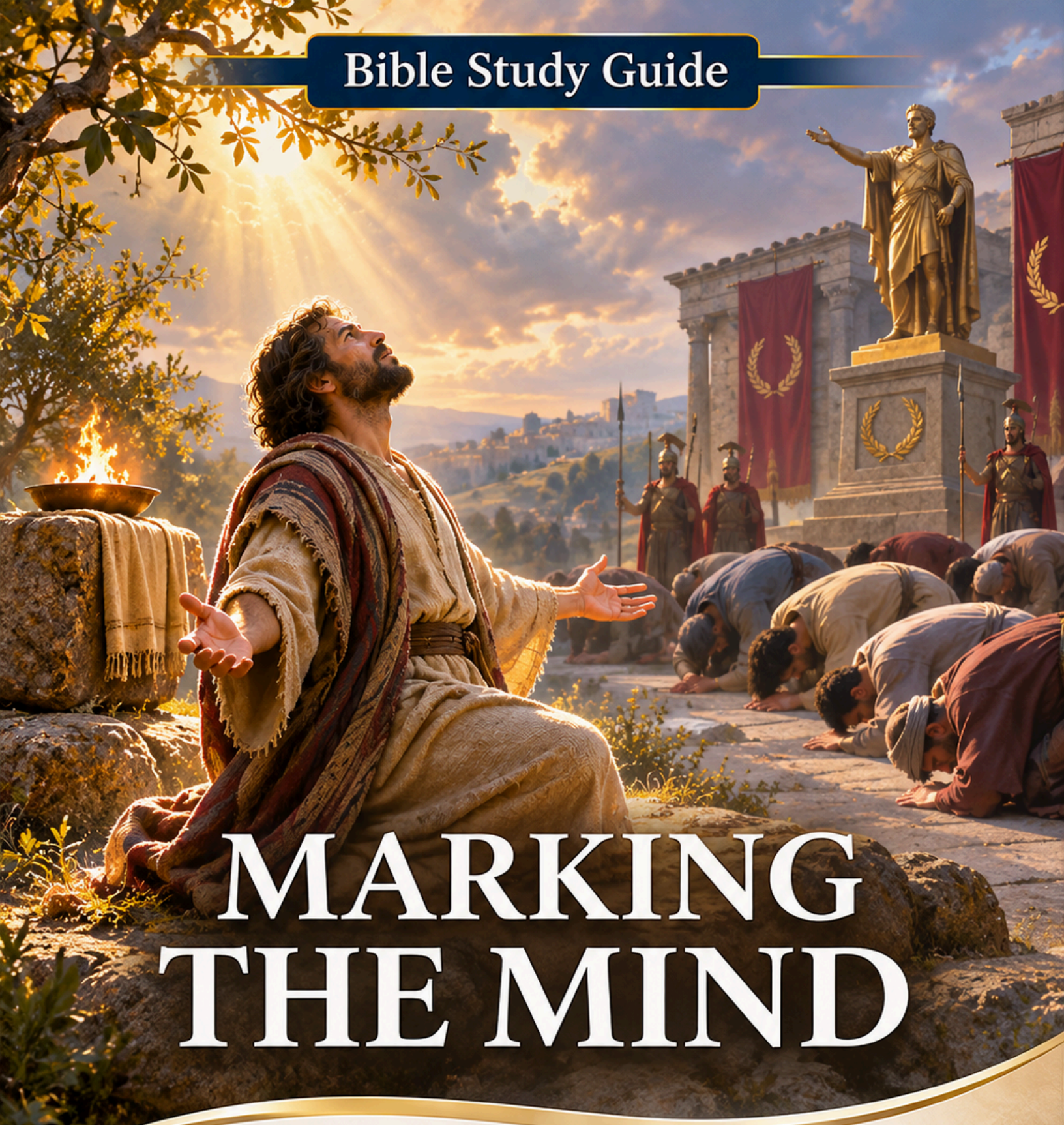
Bible Study Guide



MARKING THE MIND

A Bible Study on Worship, Allegiance, and the Seal or Mark of Loyalty

Introduction

If a stream is polluted at its source, cleaning the water farther downstream will not solve the problem. In the same way, correcting outward behavior while neglecting the thoughts and desires that produce it leaves the central problem untouched. Christ calls us to receive a renewed mind, treasure His Word, and allow His character to shape our daily decisions.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **What activity does the proverb connect with the inner character of a person?** (Proverbs 23:7)

"For as he _____ in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."

The proverb contrasts outward hospitality with the hidden attitude of the heart. God calls us to sincerity within as well as right action without.

2 **What should we guard with all diligence?** (Proverbs 4:23)

"Keep thy _____ with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

The inner life shapes the direction of conduct and character.

3 **From what abundance does the mouth speak?** (Luke 6:45)

"… for of the abundance of the _____ his mouth speaketh."

Speech is the downstream expression of the inner life. Christ seeks to transform its source.

4 **What kind of things should occupy our thoughts?** (Philippians 4:8)

"if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, _____ on these things."

Choosing what occupies the mind is part of cooperating with God's transforming work.

5 **What did the psalmist want to be acceptable before God?** (Psalm 19:14)

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my _____, be acceptable in thy sight,"

God's work encompasses both inner motives and outward speech.

6 **What does perfect love drive out of the heart?** (1 John 4:18)

"but perfect love casteth out _____:"

The love of God replaces the torment of fear and reshapes the motives from which we act.

7 **What does John reveal about God's character?** (1 John 4:8)

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is _____."

God's love is the source and standard of Christian love.

8 **What does Paul invite believers to receive from Christ?** (Philippians 2:5)

"Let this _____ be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Christ's humility is the model for the believer's thoughts, priorities, and relationships.

9 **What form did Jesus willingly take?** (Philippians 2:7)

"and took upon him the form of a _____,"

The incarnation displays God's self-sacrificing humility.

10 **How does genuine faith arise?** (Romans 10:17)

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the _____."

Faith rests upon what God has spoken, not on changing emotions.

11 **By what change are believers transformed rather than conformed to the world?** (Romans 12:2)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the _____, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

God's Spirit renews our understanding as we receive and practice His truth. Our habits of thought matter.

12 **What does Paul call believers to put on after putting off the former way of life?** (Ephesians 4:22-24)

"And that ye put on the _____, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The renewing work of God changes both the mind and the pattern of conduct.

13 **Where did the psalmist hide God's Word?** (Psalm 119:11)

"Thy word have I hid in mine _____, that I might not sin against thee."

Scripture memorized and cherished becomes available in the moments when temptation or discouragement arises.

14 **How may the Word dwell richly in us?** (Colossians 3:16)

"teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual _____,"

Scripture-centered music can help truth become a remembered part of daily life.

15 **What gives light to our spiritual path?** (Psalm 119:105)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path."

Scripture directs our steps when our own sight is limited.

16 **What does God say about His ways compared with ours?** (Isaiah 55:8)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my _____ your ways, saith the LORD."

The renewed mind learns to bring human judgments into harmony with God's wisdom rather than treating them as final.

17 **What is the standard of truth?** (John 17:17)

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy _____ is truth."

God's Word exposes deception and sanctifies those who receive it.

18 **What should be brought into captivity to Christ?** (2 Corinthians 10:5)

"bringing into captivity every _____ to the obedience of Christ;"

Christ's lordship reaches our inward thoughts, not merely outward behavior.

Appeal

What thoughts, influences, and habits are shaping your mind? Will you invite Christ to renew the source of your words and actions?

Commitment

I choose to surrender my thoughts to Christ, treasure His Word, and cooperate with the Spirit in the renewal of my mind.

_____

Signature

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