

# TAKE TO HEART





**<sup>1</sup>The revelation from Jesus Christ,  
which God gave him to show his  
servants what must soon take place.  
He made it known by sending his angel  
to his servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to  
everything he saw—that is, the word of  
God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**Revelation 1:1-3 (NIV)**

**<sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.**

**Revelation 1:1-3 (NIV)**

**“The person who reads and receives these truths will be highly favored by God... it doesn't say we have to understand or interpret everything to be blessed and highly favored, but allow it to inspire us to faith in the things that have remained unknown to the world, yet unveiled to His children, His Church.”**

***- Albert Barnes***

# **Take to Heart:**

**To internalize or live according to something; to be greatly affected and impacted by something. To hold onto as valuable and life-directing.**



# What Are You Taking to Heart?

## **FAMILY & SOCIAL INFLUENCES**

*Taking to heart our  
experiences*



## **MEDIA INFLUENCES**

*Taking to heart idealized  
false realities*

## **CULTURAL INFLUENCES**

*Taking to heart our need to  
“keep up” and compete*

## **GOD’S WORD**

*Taking to heart God’s  
ways, truth, and  
character*

**“Human beings are ‘self-interpreting animals.’ As selves, they live not by bread alone but also by the ‘words’ in terms of which they interpret themselves. Those who seriously interpret themselves in Christian terms will tend to have Christian selves.”**

*Robert Campbell Roberts*

**<sup>4</sup>John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**

**Revelation 1:4-12, 20 (NIV)**



**To him who loves us and has freed us  
from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and has  
made us to be a kingdom and priests to  
serve his God and Father—to him be  
glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.  
<sup>7</sup>“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”  
and “every eye will see him, even those  
who pierced him”;**

**Revelation 1:4-12, 20 (NIV)**

**was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches:**

**Revelation 1:4-12, 20 (NIV)**

**to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”**

**<sup>12</sup>I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands . . . The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**

**Revelation 1:4-12, 20 (NIV)**



**TAKE TO  
HEART: HE  
WANTS TO  
SPEAK TO YOU**

**EXPECT THE  
WORD TO BE  
SPECIFIC**

**A general relationship  
with the Bible becomes  
a lukewarm relationship  
with Jesus!**



# **GOD'S SPECIFIC WORD FOR YOU:**

- 1. Is Based on Truth**
- 2. Is Directional**
- 3. Is Life-Giving &  
Life-Producing**

**<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.**

**2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)**

**EXPECT THE  
WORD TO BE  
JESUS-CENTRIC  
VS. ME-CENTRIC**



# **The Character of Jesus in the Letters to the Churches**

## **2**

**SMYRNA**

**These are the words of him  
who is the First and the Last,  
who died and came to life  
again. (Revelation 2:8)**

# The Character of Jesus in the Letters to the Churches

5

SARDIS

“These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.” (Revelation 3:1)

# **The Character of Jesus in the Letters to the Churches**

**6**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**“These are the words of  
him who is holy and true,  
who holds the key of  
David. What he opens no  
one can shut, and what  
he shuts no one can  
open.” (Revelation 3:7)**



**“We do God more honor by believing what He has said about Himself and having the courage to come boldly to the throne of grace than by hiding in self-conscious humility among the trees of the garden.”**

**- A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy**

**Precious Bible! what a treasure  
Does the Word of God afford!  
All I want for life or pleasure,  
Food and medicine, shield and sword;  
Let the world account me poor—  
Christ and this, I need no more.**

*- John Newton*