

## **Background Information for 1 Peter 1:13-2:10**



As a rule, whenever you come across the word “therefore” in Sacred Scripture, you should find out what it is “there for.” The proclamation “gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 1:13) is there in order to communicate the supernatural over the natural in significance.

The entire letter is Peter attempting to convince his readers that they need to have an intellectual conversion in order to become “obedient children” (1 Pet 1:14). The audience needs to have a renewal of their minds, so that they can have a truly eternal perspective. He is not advocating for a forgetfulness of the natural, but in actuality is advocating for its real triumph. Only with a heavenly wisdom that recognizes the infinite superiority of the supernatural over the natural, can a person be “born anew” (1 Pet 1:23) and actually “love one another intensely from a pure heart” (1 Pet 1:22).

What does an eternal perspective look like? It is to see everything in life through the lens of the cross of Christ. “Rejected by men but in God’s sight chosen and precious” we must be like “living stones” who are “built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood” (1 Pet 2:4-5). The cornerstone, that is Jesus Christ crucified, is precisely the cornerstone because of His sacrificial offering of Himself. Only if we are willing to have our minds converted through the attainment of the wisdom of the cross, can we hope to receive the mercy available at the cross and extend that mercy to others through sacrificial worship and living. He has “called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light,” the light of the cross (1 Peter 2:9).