

Peter began his letter with these opening thoughts:

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*
- *He gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus.*
- *He gave us new birth into an inheritance in heaven.*
- *You rejoice even if grieved with manifold trials, which test and prove your faith.*
- *Loving and trusting Jesus, you rejoice while receiving the goal of faith, salvation.*
- *The prophets were fascinated by this salvation, and the angels are, too.*

Peter ties the opening section and the next section together with the word *therefore*.

With the things above in mind (↑), now mind this (↓).

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

Verse 13 uses an Old Testament expression *gird the loins*.

It means to *prepare for action*. It is related to being *sober-minded* or *clear-headed*.

What single-minded focus are we told to have?

Describe *obedient children*.

What *desires of former ignorance* should we not conform to?

What is the opposite of conforming?

“*Be holy because I am holy.*” Peter quotes Leviticus (for example, 19:2).

How is God holy?

How are we holy?

Let's track Peter's next line of thought through the following schematic.

*If you call on a Father who judges impartially according to one's work
in fear live the time of your temporary stay
since you know that you were redeemed from the empty way of life from your fathers
not with perishable things, silver or gold
but with the precious blood of Christ
who is like a lamb without defect and spotless
who was known beforehand (chosen) before the foundation of the world
but was revealed at the end of times for your sake
you who believe through Christ in God
who raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory
and so your faith and hope are in God.*

Some of the great gospel passages are in the midst of sections that encourage Christian living.
Why do you think that is?

What is the significance of the Father's judging *impartially*?

How are we told to live our present life, and how are we taught to view our present life?

Why do you think Peter reminds us that we were not redeemed with *perishable things*?

What makes Christ's blood so precious?

You believe in God *through Christ*. What importance does that thought have for evangelism?

1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3

Pastor Brauer

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.

The main thought in the section is: *Love each other fervently from the heart.*

Where did Peter get this thought?

How does the preceding clause fit with the main thought?

How does the following clause fit with the main thought?

Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8.

Again there's a distinction between impermanence and permanence. What is it here?

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3.

The main thought in this section is: *Desire unadulterated spiritual milk.*

Why would we crave this?