

1 Peter 2:1

Verse 1

There were no chapter and verse divisions when this letter was originally written to the chosen exiles in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).

It is not ideal that a new chapter start with the word “therefore” as the word links what has previously been mentioned to the upcoming verses. We must ask “what is the therefore there for?”

The “therefore” in this verse is linking what Peter has just previously mentioned about being born again to the actions that are to follow as a result. Therefore, since you have been born again.....

Putting aside:

- Malice(κακίαν, kakian) - malignity, malice, ill-will, intentional desire to injure or harm others, wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws, trouble.
 - **Ephesians 4:31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all **malice**.
 - **1 Corinthians 5:8** Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of **malice** and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
 - **Titus 3:3** For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in **malice** and envy, hateful, hating one another.

- Deceit (δόλον, dolon)-a bait or contrivance for entrapping, fraud, deceit, cunning, guile, stealth, intentional attempt to hide the truth.
 - In John 8: 44 The devil is described as the father of lies and there is no truth in him. As those who are born again, our Father is God and not the devil. Since we have been born again we are to put aside deceit as this is a characteristic of the devil and his nature. We have been set free by the truth and God is absolute truth. Therefore, we are to live in truth and not in deceit. To engage in deceit is to engage in the act that describes the Devil.
 - **Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is more **deceitful** than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”
 - **Psalms 34:13** Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking **deceit**.
 - Christ is our example of having no deceit- 1 Peter 2:21-22

- Hypocrisy(ὑποκρίσεις, hypokriseis)- an over-acting personification, acting; hypocrisy, simulation, answer, pretending to be something he/she is not.
 - A hypocrite is one who tries to deceive others about his spiritual state. They attempt to be more righteous than they are.(Matthew 23- Jesus and the Pharisees)
 - **Romans 12:9** Let love be without **hypocrisy**. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
 - **James 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, ^[a]reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without **hypocrisy**.

- **Envy**(φθόνους, *phthonous*) envy, jealously, spite, grudge
 - *A Christian should never be envious of anyone, but especially never envious of a non-believer at any time despite their wealth, fame, etc. We have been given the greatest gift and pearl of great price-salvation and the Kingdom of God*
 - *We are to put aside envy and jealousy toward fellow believers in Christ. We are to not be jealous of the talents or abilities that God has given them. We are not to be envious of where they are in their walk with God. This leads to dissent which is harmful to the Church. God has distributed gifts to each believer as He seems fit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)(Romans 12:1-8)to use each individually in His sovereign plan. There are no small roles in the Kingdom of God. The church is compared to a body(1 Corinthians 12:12-31) and not all believers are the same body part. In our natural body all parts are vital to making a complete body that functions properly and so is the case with the body of Christ. Don't be envious or jealous of other believers and to be so is to say that God did not hand out His gifts perfectly. Rather, be thankful for your gifts and abilities He has given you.*
 - **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is **jealousy and strife** among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking ^[a]like mere men?
 - **James 3:13-17** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and ^[a]selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, ^[a]natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where **jealousy and** ^[a]**selfish ambition** exist, ^[a]there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, ^[e]reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
- **Slander**(καταλαλιάς, *katalalias*)- evil speaking, detraction, backbiting, slandering
 - *As Christians we should especially distance ourselves from slander. The name devil comes from the Greek word diabolos which means "slanderer (see John 8:31-47). Those who are born again are not children of the devil, but rather children of God (1 John 3:1)*
 - **Exodus 20:16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."
 - **Exodus 23:1** You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.
 - **Proverbs 6:16-19** There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination ^[a]to Him: ¹⁷Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,¹⁹A false witness who utters lies,And one who ^[a]spreads strife among brothers.
 - **Proverbs 16:28** A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
 - **Matthew 12:36** But I tell you that every ^[a]careless word that people ^[b]speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
 - **2 Timothy 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, ^[a]haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of

pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of ^[b]godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

The Christian response to slander:

- **1 Peter 3:16** and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.
- **Psalm 119:23-24** Even though princes sit *and* talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.²⁴ Your testimonies also are my delight; *They are* ^[a]my counselors.
- **Romans 12:17-21** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. ^[a]Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but ^[b]leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. ²⁰ "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- **Ephesians 4:29-32** Let no ^[u]unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification ^[v]according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, ^[w]by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven ^[x]you.
- **Colossians 3:8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.
- **1 Peter 3:8-9** To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but ^[y]giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Verses that list more than one from the list of things to "put aside" in 1 Peter 2:1

- **Romans 1:28-31** And just as they did not see fit ^[a]to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, ^[b]haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;
- **Mark 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, ^[a]fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of

coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, ^[b]envy, slander, ^[a]pride *and* foolishness. ²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

- **Galatians 5:19-21** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: ^[a]immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, ^[b]factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Love your neighbor as yourself

All of the things that Peter tells us to put aside are actions toward others. We must remember that by God’s mercy (the vertical) we have been changed and can now have a love toward others that is only brought about by the supernatural. As a result of being born again by God’s mercy, we are then to walk the horizontal aspect of our lives under the second greatest commandment that Jesus states in **Matthew 22:36-36**:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸ This is the great and ^[a]foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

Romans 13:8-10 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves ^[a]his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. ⁹ For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” ¹⁰ Love ^[a]does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

All because of being born again

Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and slander are all from our natural man that is unregenerate and are actions that the devil displays. To go against these things (malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander) mentioned in this verse is to go against our fallen nature. That is why it takes the supernatural nature of regeneration to begin to produce actions that are opposite to our fallen nature. It is only after we are born again can we then begin to lay these things aside as we are becoming more conformed to the image of God. If you are a Christian, put these things down and never pick them up again!