

Be a Better Bible Student – 4Q 2020
Class 5: Define the Problem

Pre-Class

- Read through 1 Peter 1-4
- What do you notice as the main problems/concerns Peter has? Be as specific as possible.

Define the Problem

- This is the stage of Bible study where we look much closer at what we can know about the problems the letter/book address.
- Defining the problem is vital to rightly understanding the author's instructions and response. It also gives us a clue to how serious certain problems are, which will help us identify similar problems we face and their severity.
- Until we can define the problem, we will not be able to understand it or apply it to ourselves.
- Caution: Tempting though it may be, it is best not to jump too quickly to modern equivalents. We must define the problem clearly before we can apply it.

Defining the Problem in 1 Peter

- Certain sections give us the most information on what is actually happening. This happens in Galatians, for example. In some epistles (and other types of Bible books), we must read between the lines (Romans).
- Answer the following questions about these sections in 1 Peter to help define the problem.

1 Pet 1:6-7

- Explain the nature of the problem as described in these verses.

- Explain v. 7 and the concept of "tested genuineness".

1 Pet 2:11-17

- Explain the nature of the problem as described in these verses.

- What does Peter mean by our conduct "among the Gentiles" (v. 12)?

- Why is posture toward the government relevant (2:13-17)? What does this imply about the problem?

1 Pet 3:13-17

- Explain the nature of the problem as described in these verses.

- What type of Christian response does Peter appear to be concerned about?

1 Pet 4:12-19

- Explain the nature of the problem as described in these verses.

- Why would being surprised at suffering be a problem (v. 12)?

- Who does Peter see as the ultimate source of the Christians' suffering (v. 17)?

What is the connection between **right living** and **coming suffering**? (1:13-17, 2:11-12, 2:19-23, 3:8-9, 3:16, 4:1-4, 4:15-16, 5:8-9)

As precisely as possible, describe the problem 1 Peter is written to address.