



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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EARTHLY ALIGNMENTS

The crisis in Ukraine continued this week after Sunday's overwhelming vote by Crimeans to secede and join Russia. That outcome was not surprising, since most Crimeans are ethnic Russians. Even so, Western leaders question the legitimacy of the referendum given the fact that it took place under Russian military occupation. Western governments have imposed sanctions and are pondering other responses to dissuade further power plays on the part of Russia.

SPIRITUAL ALLEGIANCES

The book of Revelation paints a picture of a future time when national identities, with their confusing and changing loyalties, will be a thing of the past. In the present world, we are divided by language, culture, race, etc. But in God's future realm, divisions will be no more. All those gathered around the heavenly throne will proclaim allegiance to God and Christ.

1. What lessons about national, earthly loyalties should Christians learn from the current situation in Crimea?
2. How should Christians respond, if at all, to the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?
3. Since all are destined to bow before God and Christ, what should be our attitude about national loyalties today? Why?
4. What makes Christ worthy of our allegiance in a way that earthly leaders are not?
5. Should Christians participate in secular efforts to create international unity? Why, or why not?

—Charles R. Boatman

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