



"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®
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

VOTING FOR A FUTURE

Last week Scotland took a brave step into the future—or was it a timid retreat into the past? By means of a referendum on independence, the government in London had given Scotland the chance to end its 307-year-old union with England. The voters of Scotland decided, by 55 percent to 45 percent, that their best future lies in continuing to be part of the United Kingdom. Whether or not the political establishment in London will make good on its promises for greater autonomy for Scotland remains to be seen.

TRUSTING GOD FOR A FUTURE

The hope for a better future has been part of the human experience since the beginning of history. With their city under siege, the future looked bleak for the people of Jerusalem. The only vote that mattered was God's, and he had decided to send the Judeans into captivity for their sins. But his word through Jeremiah also offered hope. God promised to bring joyous blessings that no referendum, no government, no political compromise could ever bring.

1. Do Christians tend to rely too much on governmental action to bring about a prosperous future? Why, or why not?
2. What types of captivity do people tend to place themselves in when they rebel against God today?
3. How do we recognize when the problem in question 2 is beginning to happen?
4. What would bring more joy into the life of your church? What role might you play in bringing that about?
5. What tends to rob you of joy personally?

—Charles R. Boatman

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