



"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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MORAL DRIFT

The Boy Scouts of America proudly boasts that it is "one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations." But some wonder if that boast is still justified.

This week, the Scouts announced that they now welcome openly gay troop leaders and employees. The decision comes in response to radical government policy change toward same-sex relationships that was ushered in by a Supreme Court decision earlier this summer. Also a factor is the particularly litigious nature of the gay-rights movement.

Expecting protests from those who hold to traditional values concerning homosexuality, Scout officials assured local troops and councils that they may still prohibit such leaders.

DIVINE STABILITY

Isaiah prophesied at a time when truth was in short supply. He noted that those intent on doing evil were quick to prey upon those who stood by God's Word.

The prophet agonized over the fact that no one seemed willing to intervene in the cause of righteousness. He announced that God would restore fear of the Lord among his enemies by sending a Redeemer who would ensure that God's standards of righteousness would endure.

1. What similarities do you see between the situation Isaiah faced and what is happening in America? In what ways do you see few people in authority unwilling to take a stand for traditional moral values?
2. If a church sponsors a Scout troop, how should it respond to the Scouts' change of policy? Should a local group be part of a national organization that no longer upholds its values? Why or why not?
3. How do you think God will respond to our current situation? Why do you believe that?
4. Does today's text keep you from adopting an "all is lost" state of mind? Explain. How does it give you hope for future deliverance and the triumph of God's Word?

—Charles R. Boatman

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