



"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®.

TO TESTIFY OR NOT?

Until recently, Bryan Pagliano was a little-known U.S. State Department employee. Now he has been forced into the spotlight. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is being investigated for using a private email server for official business. Pagliano has become an important witness, because he set up and maintained that server.

Last week Pagliano refused to testify before the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya. His attorneys say his Fifth Amendment rights prevent him from being forced to testify, lest he risk incriminating himself.

TO TESTIFY? NO QUESTION!

The apostles were little known fishermen and other types of "nobodies" until they met Jesus. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, they became his bold spokesmen. After the Sanhedrin told them *not* to testify about Jesus, they said no earthly power, governmental or otherwise, could keep them quiet. Their loyalty to Christ compelled them to speak.

1. What value do you see in the Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution? What should a Christian consider before deciding to "take the fifth?"
2. How did the apostles incriminate themselves when speaking out about Jesus? When might speaking openly about one's faith put a modern-day Christian at odds with civil authorities?
3. What biblical principles should guide us, either in defending ourselves or in attacking the world's evils? On what issues should Christians decide when to take a stand and how?
4. Tell of a time when you found that telling the truth, even though uncomfortable to do so, was better than silence.

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://standardlesson.com/category/in-the-world/>

Copyright © 2015 by Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, OH. All rights reserved.
Each download is for the use of one church only.