



"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®.

### **HUMAN JUDGMENTS**

Although two weeks have passed since Omar Mateen murdered 49 people in an Orlando nightclub primarily patronized by those identifying as gay or lesbian, people are still making conflicting judgments about the horrific event. Monday afternoon the FBI, under pressure from Republican leaders, released the unedited transcript of the 911 call Mateen made during the rampage. Monday morning the FBI had released a version omitting Mateen's allegiance to ISIS and its leader. The agency defended the omission on the grounds of denying the terror group a public platform. Some have insisted that this was not an act of terrorism, but rather an act of self-loathing by a man who struggled with same-sex attraction. (The FBI says that they have found no evidence of that, however.) This week lawmakers offered legislation to limit access to weapons to potential terrorists, but all such efforts were blocked. Some even argue that the whole event was a hoax perpetrated by the government to gain support for outlawing guns.

### **DIVINE JUDGMENT**

The apostle Paul's assessment of the state of humankind and the reason for God's judgment is without conflict and contradiction. Judgment is deserved because people purposely reject God and divine standards, substituting their own standards in place of them. This rejection deepens the divide between humankind and God and leads to even greater corruption of civilization.

1. Why do you think people differ in the way they interpret the reasons for the Orlando shootings? In what ways have you found yourself at odds with others concerning how to deal with the aftermath of this attack?
2. After reading our lesson text, try to imagine what the apostle Paul would say about Orlando, other terrorist attacks, and the general moral state of our nation today.
3. Do recent events make you think God is now in the process of bringing judgment on America? On what basis?

—Charles R. Boatman

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