



"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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NOTHING EVER CHANGES

In an Oregon court last week, seven defendants were acquitted of charges that they had illegally occupied federal land from January 2 to February 11 this year. Members of the "patriot" movement said the government had overreached its authority and created the armed standoff. Others fear the acquittal will encourage similar groups to act against the government in violent ways. The situation seems to fit the larger phenomenon of generalized anger in America at this time. This election cycle demonstrates that large groups of citizens in both parties believe the system is rigged, and that nothing ever changes.

SOMEDAY EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE

In spite of how bad things may look to us at any given time, the Bible holds out hope that someday everything will change, and it will change for the better! The evils of all sorts that plague this world exist because of sin. God has promised that, at the appropriate time, he will destroy everything that is evil, and everything will become new.

1. Do you think the view that "the system is rigged" is accurate? Is it true to some extent that the "little guy" is the victim of larger forces at work in society? Explain.
2. Should Christians try to work within a system that is, at best, imperfect? Why or why not?
3. If not, what is the alternative approach for those who serve Christ?
4. Since our culture thinks it is "intolerant" to condemn sin, how would you justify to a friend God's judgment of sin?
5. Describe in your own terms what you expect the new order of things to be like.

—Charles R. Boatman

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