



“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®.

BAD NEWS

Whether the grand jury’s decision from Ferguson, Missouri was “bad news” or “good news” depends on one’s perspective. That jury had decided that there was insufficient evidence to indict white police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager. In announcing the jury’s decision, the county prosecutor referred to inaccurate reporting and contradictory eyewitness accounts. What was definitely bad news was the fact that the city erupted in violence after the jury’s decision was announced. Many saw that violence as revealing once again racial tensions between African-Americans and law enforcement authorities.

GOOD NEWS

There is no bad news or contradictory evidence in Isaiah’s reporting of the restoration of Jerusalem. Neither is there a hint of bad news in his prediction that “the ends of the earth” will see salvation become a reality. The implications of that statement transcend the rebuilding of any earthly Jerusalem. Every Christian of every race and language is the beneficiary of the good news of God’s work of salvation through Christ.

1. What is there about human nature that makes cases like that involving Michael Brown and Darren Wilson so difficult to resolve to everyone’s satisfaction?
2. What can Christians do to defuse racial tension wherever it exists?
3. How does the good news of the future that Isaiah prophesied make you better equipped to accomplish the goal of question 2?
4. How do we help our fellow Christians keep their focus on God’s eternal salvation in Christ and the marvelous future that awaits?
5. When was a time that the troubles of this world caused you to take your eyes off that perfect future? How did you get back on track in that regard?

—Charles R. Boatman

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