



“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®.

### **FADING GLORY**

“Black Friday” (the Friday after Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.) has been the *de facto* beginning of the Christmas shopping season over the last dozen or so years. But recently merchants have been opening their doors on Thanksgiving Day as well. Many stores now start their Christmas promotions earlier. This year, however, sales over the Black Friday weekend were down 11 percent from last year’s, and the number of shoppers dropped by about 6 percent. Perhaps Black Friday’s glory is fading, since marketing experts expect this trend to continue. The glory days of all things material eventually come to an end.

### **UNFADING GLORY**

The situation is quite different when we consider Jesus Christ. Increasing numbers of Christians have worshipped him for some two thousand years now. Although the church of the year 2014 struggles in nations and regions where Christianity was once strong, faith in Christ is spreading rapidly elsewhere, even in places such as Communist China! Christ *will be* worshipped, regardless of what an increasingly secular America does.

1. How do we keep *Thanksgiving* from becoming merely *Turkey Day*?
2. What does Nehemiah 13:15-21 have to say, if anything, regarding the trend to turn a holiday that has a Christian basis into just another day to sell things?
3. How can we make our worship of Christ a more powerful force in our increasingly secular, materialistic culture?
4. In what ways is Jesus being honored in the non-Western world today?
5. What can the answer to question 4 teach those of us who live in the Western world?
6. How did you honor Christ in the past week as “the season of brotherly shove” began in earnest?

—Charles R. Boatman

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