



"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®.

### **NOTHING COULD BE DONE**

Analysis of the flight recorders has begun as officials try to determine why a Russian airliner crashed in Egypt a week ago. Everything seemed normal in the cockpit, but suddenly an emergency situation developed. "Unusual" sounds were recorded. Then the plane was lost. At the time this article was written, it is unclear whether there was structural failure, an onboard explosion, or an external cause for the crash. Apparently, nothing could be done to save the plane and the 224 people on board. The crew did not even have time to send a distress signal.

### **SOMETHING MUST BE DONE**

The church in Acts was dealing with an explosive situation. The problem threatened to destroy the infant church. As its ethnic makeup became increasingly Gentile, some Jewish Christians demanded that, for Gentiles to be saved, something must be done. That "something" was for them to accept the Law and be circumcised. In their minds, God's grace could not provide salvation. Human works were also necessary.

1. Tell about a time when you were in a situation that was out of your control, but by the grace of God, you survived. How did this experience affect you spiritually?
2. What is it about human nature that makes us think we have to "do something" to be saved? What are some of those actions Christians (and others) have placed their trust in?
3. On the other hand, is there a danger in thinking we don't have to do anything to be right with God? What abuses have you seen? How do you resolve the differences between these two ideas?
4. Describe how you see the grace of God working in your life.

—Charles R. Boatman

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