



"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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A DEATH MAKES A DIFFERENCE . . .

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia died on February 13. He was the longest-sitting current member of the U.S. Supreme Court. His death increased the intensity of the ideological debate already taking place in the presidential primary campaigns.

Hoping to shift the balance of the Court for decades to come, Democrats stressed that President Obama must quickly nominate Scalia's replacement. Knowing that replacing originalist Scalia with a judicial activist similar to President Obama's other two appointees to the Court would have dramatic effects, Republicans have vowed not to approve such a nominee. A strongly activist court would probably reverse recent decisions affirming religious liberties of business owners, protecting private gun ownership, limiting restrictive speech codes, and more. Despite their current protests, Democrats have taken similar stands when a Republican president was in his final year in office.

. . . ESPECIALLY THIS ONE!

On the Day of Atonement, a sacrificial lamb died for the sins of the Jewish people. Without that death, their sins would not be covered by God's mercy. With the more complete understanding of God's grace that was revealed through Jesus, we have come to see that his death makes a powerful difference! His death makes atonement for all who accept him.

1. Leaving the present political turmoil aside (if you can), name some people whose deaths have made a difference in what America is today.
2. Tell the class about a deceased friend or family member whose life contributed significantly to yours, and tell how their death affected you.
3. How does learning about the Jewish Day of Atonement enrich your understanding of Jesus' role in your salvation?

—Charles R. Boatman

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