



"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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UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

The so-called "law of unintended consequences" went into effect last week when hackers found their way into thousands of interconnected computing systems. The increasingly complex web of DVRs, home computers, routers, internet-connected surveillance cameras, and even building thermostats was hacked. The cyber-attack brought down Netflix, Amazon, Paypal, Twitter, and other networks. The interconnection of so many networks offers us many benefits of communication and commerce. But it was that very interconnection which allowed the hackers to nullify the benefits to millions of people for several hours.

INTENDED RESULT

Isn't that the way it is with so many human creations? We develop practices and inventions, thinking they will be good, but they so often come back to "bite us"! However, Hebrews 12 tells us that God sometimes steps into the picture when our misguided behavior goes awry. His discipline is intended to correct us, with the result of producing righteousness and peace in us.

1. Overall, has the development of technology been a good thing? Why or why not? Where would you draw the line between good and bad technology?
2. How do you personally monitor your family's use of technology to maximize the good and minimize the bad?
3. Are the negative effects of technological advancement an example of God "disciplining" us? How can you be sure God is acting? Explain.
4. In what other areas of life do you see God applying the law of unintended consequences? How does "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) help us?
5. How would you apply Romans 8:28 to this topic (compare with Hebrews 12:10)?

—Charles R. Boatman

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