



"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®.

DECAY . . .

A decaying national infrastructure is in the news. In California, the problems at Oroville Dam recently caught the public's attention. Water in Flint, Michigan has been polluted for years with lead, E. coli, and dangerous levels of many chemicals. Texas roads, dams, flood control, and drinking water get a D or D- grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers. So it goes around the country. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that an investment of \$3.6 trillion will be needed by 2020 to rectify the situation. Many say Americans have been selfishly spending money for years to make ourselves comfortable, though unwilling to allocate funds to keep us safe and well.

. . . AND GROWTH

Paul's instructions to the Galatians emphasize the fruit of the Spirit—character traits that are directed to enriching the lives of others first and ourselves incidentally. The apostle warns us that we eventually "get what's coming to us," as the old saying goes. The principle seems to apply to societies as well as individuals.

1. Do you think America's infrastructure problems prove that "we reap what we sow," to use Paul's terminology? Explain.
2. Beyond that, to what extent do you think the nation's social problems are the result of "the acts of the flesh," to use another of Paul's phrases?
3. Is reluctance to tax ourselves for the common good an indication of national selfishness?
4. What have you found in your own life to be the benefit of cultivating the fruit of the Spirit? Give some specific examples.

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2016 by Standard Publishing, Part of the David C. Cook Family. All rights reserved.
Each download is for the use of one church only.