



“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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HEALTH CARE AT WHAT COST?

How to provide healthcare for Americans is part of an ongoing debate in Washington, DC, these days. Opinions on the matter vary across the political spectrum, from 100% coverage free for everyone to no coverage except that which an individual can afford to buy. This week, the US Justice Department filed a suit asking the courts to strike down “Obamacare.” Some candidates in the 2020 presidential run for the White House are taking positions at the opposite extreme.

HEALING FREE TO ALL

In Jesus’ time, there was no such thing as health insurance and nothing like medical care as we know it. Thus, when Jesus came healing the sick and casting out demons, He was meeting a need that couldn’t be filled otherwise. When He called and sent out His apostles, He gave them authority to engage in a healing ministry similar to His.

1. Does the healing authority Jesus gave to His twelve apostles apply to Christians today? Why or why not? If so, to what extent?
2. Do you know of situations in which a Christian has exercised (or claimed to exercise) the gift of healing? If so, how was the gift authenticated?
3. If Jesus’ will regarding healthcare were perfectly enacted in our country today, what do you think that would look like?

—Charles R. Boatman

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