



“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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THE LEAST ARE LAST TO PROFIT

Poorly educated workers are traditionally the ones most affected by layoffs in a declining economy. They are also usually the last to be hired when the economy begins to recover. Last week’s report on job growth in July put the unemployment rate at historic lows. Of special interest was the fact that people without college educations were increasingly among those being hired in America’s burgeoning economy.

THE LEAST SHOULD BE FIRST ON A CHRISTIAN’S LIST

As usual, the politicians are arguing about who should get the glory for the strong economy. More important is what the Bible says about Christians’ responsibility to care for their fellow Christians who may be suffering from economic difficulties. The biblical concept of aid doesn’t depend on a growing economy to create jobs and thus lift people out of poverty. Rather, it relies on individual Christians to follow the example of Christ in giving of himself for the sake of others.

1. Should Christians be concerned about who gets the credit (or blame) for what happens to the economy? Explain.
2. Since governmental agencies provide (to some degree) a safety net for people caught in economic troubles, do we have the same obligation to help others today as Christians did in Paul’s time? Why or why not?
3. Does your church have a program that ministers to those in need? If so, give an example of how it has helped someone. If your church doesn’t have such a program, is there a need for it, and how might you help to get it started? What are some factors that inhibit us from being generous, and how can they be overcome?

—Charles R. Boatman

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