

(Romans 8:35-39, NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Anthrax. Maybe you knew what it was last month. Maybe you'd heard the term. Now, it's a household word. Some towns have canceled Trick-or-Treating because of it. Reader's Digest is informing subscribers that the white powder on their magazines is cornstarch to keep the pages from sticking together. The Post Office is inundated with calls regarding suspected packages.

For the first time since the Civil War, it's a scary time to be an American, and we have no clear answer when it will end. In fact, Scripture tells us only that it will end when Jesus is once again revealed.

Because we don't know when that day is, it's easy to get discouraged, but while the war on terrorism is just begun, the War on Satan, the father of terrorism, is already won decisively. The battles with murder and our own sin are just skirmishes that, while of great importance, have no effect on the outcome of the war. Jesus' death on the cross broke the chains of sin that Satan would use to pull us away from God. He paid for the sins of terrorists and farmers alike. We need not fear attack. He has already won the war.

(Revelation 2:10b, NIV) Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.