

Who?

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril, or sword?—Romans 8:35*

Many of my Christian friends expressed this week a feeling that they are bearing excessive burdens. They have been hit with one trial after another and there is no relief in sight. Perhaps you can identify with this.

We need to keep in mind that Romans 8:35 does not ask *what* can separate us from the love of God, it asks *who*. This verse lists many types of difficulties that the Christian might face: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword. But, the verse did not ask if these troubles could separate us from the love of Christ; it asked *who*. It asked who could use these circumstances to defeat you.

Who would want to separate us from the love of Christ? The answer is Satan. Some trials, those from God, come to make us strong. Other problems come from Satan in an attempt to extract us from the love of God.

It may help to remember, just like Satan saw something in Job, he sees something in you that he wants to defeat and the only way to get to you is to disconnect you from the love of Jesus Christ. Paul offers great encouragement in verse 37.

*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.*

Satan may be trying to rip you from God's love. Don't lose sight of what God has done. Remember His great love toward you and you can conquer the one who is attempting to pull you away from Christ's love.