First we will build on biblical concepts, to make up a foundation concerning God's character.

<u>God is love</u>, 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:16, <u>God wishes no not one to perish</u>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9, <u>God is a righteous Judge of all, and will judge *(condemn)* all unrighteousness, Luke 12:5 <u>God is the creator of heaven and earth, man and all that is in it</u>, <u>Genesis chapter 1</u>. God is <u>Omnipotence</u> (all powerful), <u>Omniscience</u> (all knowing), and <u>Omnipresence</u> (all present) and God is not going to be outdone by our enemy and His defeated foe, the Devil.</u>

The scripture that is commonly pointed to is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians chapter 2. The two things generally in question in this scripture is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto Him, v 2:1 and *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, v 2:3. this passage has been debated and has been interpreted differently by various scholars and will continue to be debated regardless of the argument made. Therefore, I will rather use biblical concepts to make my point.

When Christians question if they will go through the tribulation, they are focusing on and exulting the evil works and thoughts of our enemy, more than the mighty spiritual works of what our God can do for us and has done in the past. It also minimizes God's great love and power working on our behalf. God is in ultimate control over the earth and His creation, He loves His creation, wishes the best for them and that no not one should perish. Whereas the devil has no power in and of himself, he can only deceive us. God has defeated the devil and therefore the devil cannot divert or redirect God's plans, ie. God wins!

Imagine a scenario of a person coming to Christ, surrendering their life to Him, the best they know how to and over many years walking and growing in Christ. Now comes the tribulation and all the Lord says to them is: "I love you, and I hope you make it through". In this scenario their salvation might not be at stake, but, ask yourself, why would God put one of His, that He dearly loves through the absolute horror of the tribulation, that was intended for only the non-believers and the unrighteous?

Many people wonder if the rapture will be pre, post or mid trib. Why believe and limit yourself to just one of these, I believe that all three will take place, you can call them collections of the saints. This is God's earth and His master plan and He is not going to let the devil get the better of Him, He is going to take every opportunity to save and collect His people up to heaven. In the book of Revelation, after chapter 3 there is no more mention of the church, this foretells of the rapture (see Revelation 4:1), half way through the tribulation we see the mid-trib collection (see Revelation 7:14), and the post-trib is those who were martyred and had gotten the victory over the beast (see Revelation 15:2). To see a short concise summary of the book of Revelation, (click here).

The core of this question is fear based, God has thoughts of peace and not of evil towards us, to give us an expected end, Jeremiah 29:11. Going through the tribulation, that was meant for non-believers and the unrighteous, is not according to any thoughts of peace that I know of.

The bottom line is: This is a personal decision that everyone must come to terms with. The answer, I believe will be greatly influenced by the depth of our relationship, trust and understanding of God's love that He has towards us. But, know that Christians will not be going through the tribulation.

