**Happy Christmas Morning to you all**

 I wanted to put out a short message to everyone this morning about how much we should be thinking about what Christmas really means. Not the present giving, feasting, football watching that we normally do. But think about what God did for *US* by giving us his son to come and be with us for a short time, die on the cross for *OUR* sins and then offer us peace with God through his intercession.

 I am sure others have said it better than I, but Jesus is really the reason for the season, not gifts, large meals, and football. He has promised that if we accept him as our savior to never let us go, we may have a bumpy ride, but the end will be so much better than we can ever imagine it.

 How do we accept him? Just believe he can do what he has promised, sound too good to be true? Just think about it, Christianity is the only religion in the world that is not dependent upon *US* to do anything but say I believe and have faith in Him. We don’t even HAVE to follow all the rules, but the more you believe the more you will become obedient to him.

All other religions depend upon you to do something, works, sacrifices, certain types of dress. Some don’t even believe Jesus was the son of God.

And that is just a shame, it is so easy, yet so hard to do that. Trust in Jesus for our/my salvation.

About 12 years ago Racal Flats, a country group, put out a song called “I won’t let you go” the chorus of that song is what is below. I did not tie it to scripture someone else did. But how appropriate for this day.

I will stand by you

I will help you through

When you’ve done all you do and can’t cope

I will dry your eyes

I will fight your fights

I will hold you tight and won’t let you go.

**God Says**

I will stand by You

**Joshua 1:9 (NASB)**
9  "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

I will help you through

**Hebrews 13:6 (NASB)**
6  so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

When you’ve done all you can do and you can’t cope

**Isaiah 40:29 (NASB)**
29  He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.

I will dry your eyes

**Revelation 21:14 (NASB)**
14  And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I will fight your fights

**Deuteronomy 3:22 (NASB)**
22  'Do not fear them, for the LORD your God is the one fighting for you.'

I will hold you tight and won’t let you go

**Psalm 63:8 (NASB)**
8  My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

Merry Christmas everyone, I pray all goes well for you and your family in the upcoming year.