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### **Those Religious Nuts**

*"...in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, when he comes, in that Day, to be glorified in his saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." 2Thessalonians 1:8-10*

I've seen this story several times in different places and it turned up again in an email I received a week or so back. If you haven't seen it, I think you will enjoy it. If you are like me, you may have seen it at some time and have already forgotten the punch line! Here's the story:

Reverend Boudreaux was the part-time pastor of the local Cajun Baptist Church and Pastor Thibodaux was the minister of the Covenant Church across the road. They were both standing by the road, pounding a sign into the ground that read:

'Da End is Near  
Turn Yo Sef 'Roun Now  
Afore It Be Too Late!'

As a car sped past them, the driver leaned out his window and yelled, 'You religious nuts!' From the curve they heard screeching tires, and a big splash...

Boudreaux turns to Thibodaux and asks, 'Do ya tink maybe da sign should jussay.....'Bridge Out?'

In the immortal words of the Warden from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." I don't know what kind of 'nut' was behind the wheel of the car in this story, but I sure hope he was one of the religious variety. It appears he met his Maker with a big splash!

This story reminds us that true religion does have some very worthwhile merits. Christians who genuinely love their neighbors as they love themselves are a blessing to their community and to the nation. It seems certain that our nation could use a good dose of Christian principles right now. What the Bible teaches about morality, discipline and moderation produces not just better Christians, but it generates better citizens, better neighbors and better leaders. It is very possible that we need to "turn ourselves around" to avoid a disaster that lurks just ahead. The place to begin the turnaround is with ME! May God help us to practice what we preach and to genuinely love our neighbors.

*"So he answered and said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.'" Luke 10:27-28*