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# The Perihelion

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"THE POINT NEAREST THE SUN"



Keep the **SUN** in your eyes!

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## YOGI-ISMS

Yogi Berra was an all-star catcher for the New York Yankees and also became well-known for his unintentionally witty sayings. A couple of his more well-known lines include: "*It ain't over 'till it's over*" and "*When you come to a fork in the road, take it.*" When asked to comment about his pithy and paradoxical statements, he said, "*I really didn't say everything I said.*" Here are a few more ...

"Baseball is 90% mental ... the other half is physical."

"It ain't the heat; it's the humidity."

"... we were overwhelming underdogs."

When asked if the naked fans streaking the field were men or women, Yogi replied: "I don't know. They had bags over their heads."

"Nobody eats at that restaurant anymore. It's always too crowded!"

"The future ain't what it used to be."

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."

"I'd find the fellow who lost it, and, if he was poor, I'd return it" (when asked what he would do if he found \$1 million).

## WHEN LIFE FEELS OUT OF CONTROL

The man was *angrily yelling at me* while threatening me with a metal thermos. I don't know about you, but I have never had anything like that happen to me in my entire life. And no, we were not talking about politics!

As they say on TV, 10 minutes earlier . . . I had finished grocery shopping and was driving to exit onto the main road. There was a man about 40 years old who was walking his bike down the middle of the road. He did not walk on the side so I could go around him and kept looking back like he knew he was making me wait for him. I tried to be patient but since there were no cars coming down the other lane, I decided I would simply drive around him. As soon as I did, he ran his

bike over in front of me and began his tirade.

I tried to calmly talk to him and share my Christian faith with him, but he seemed oblivious to reality. Later, I realized he was probably *paranoid schizophrenic* and not in touch with reality. I always figured I could talk myself out of a threatening situation, but in this instance I realized using my eloquent, persuasive, gentle words was not going to be helpful. So I ran him over . . . just kidding. I patiently waited for him to end his tirade and he finally left, allowing a huge line of cars to finally pass by.

I had one other major time when I thought I would be able to "save" myself from a life-threatening situation. But in that instance it also turned out that I literally had no control over the situation. That was the time the paramedics gave me *48 hours to live* after my near life-ending car accident, which I have shared about in a previous article (see the Articles link at Larrybubb.com for WRECKED INTO A BEAUTIFUL LETDOWN). I thought I could have handled any situation like that with my quick reflexes and athletic physical ability to protect myself.

God's sovereignty does not mean that God determines everything; it means that God can do anything. – Pastor Ryan Paulson, Emmanuel Faith Community Church

I have never publicly shared this part of the story. You see, I am the Grand Master Champion of *Whac-A-Mole!* God blessed me with extremely quick reflexes and, on top of that, I have never drunk any type of alcohol my entire life, which means I have more brain cells than many other people. I also grew up driving many years on narrow, curvy back roads in all types of weather in KY. Those factors, combined with my talents in various sports throughout my life, led me to mistakenly believe that if I was in some sort of close-call, I would be able to navigate my way out of it.

After I had recovered, I surveyed the scene of the accident and realized I could not have done anything differently than what I did as I ran into a tree at about 55 MPH. The man in the vehicle ahead of me was trying to make a U-turn in the middle of a 2-lane highway just as I was beginning to attempt to pass him. He was blocking both lanes. There were rock-layered cliffs to my right so that was not an option. I could have smashed into his car, probably killing his 2 kids in the backseat and possibly him and his wife. Or . . . my only other option was to jerk the wheel to the left and smash into the tree at 55 mph. When I later discovered this, I realized no amount of skilled driving on my part could have prevented it.

I realized I am alive today because of nothing but the grace of God. It seems to me, as life often feels more and more out of control, we, on the other hand, seem to think we are more and more self-sufficient. In this modern technological age, we think we should be in control. Programming satellites should be at our fingertips using our smart phones! And then we are programmed to get upset when things don't go as we think they should. Perhaps Covid was a reminder that there are times when life is out of control for us . . . and we need to fall on our knees before the sovereign God of the universe realizing our ultimate hope and trust needs to be in Him . . . and not ourselves or our circumstances.

So the challenge is to constantly remind ourselves we need to be more dependent on God, trusting Him in ALL things, and less reliant on our own skills and thinking . . . and smart phones. I now remember that I used to always know what you were thinking . . . like how you are now thinking of Proverbs 3:5-6, which reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding . . . and then He will direct our paths. So I do humbly thank God for keeping me alive and for taking control during those situations that are totally out of our control.

#### NEW ALL-STAR APP

I recently read that HBO/MAX and Discovery+ Channel had merged their apps. Even more recently I heard that Disney+ and HULU were merging into one app as well. Now there is talk of an even greater "all-star" app that will merge all the apps into one. It will be called ... CABLE!

#### PREDICTION FOR 2024

It seems we might be in for one doozy of a roller-coaster ride in 2024. But rest assured that we are strapped in by the supernatural grace of Almighty God to hold us secure during all the ups and downs; and we have The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to provide that incredible comfort in the midst of

these tumultuous times; and we still have the example of the Son, Jesus, to enable us to love those who disagree with us, be patient with those who have lost their way, and to trust God for the final outcome of this life's journey toward the SON.

I got a very personal email this week. I could not make up anything this funny. It literally read:

Hello,

Following up to see if you received my email from [INSERT DAY OF WEEK].

#### OUR HIGH CALLING

It dawned on me recently that we have a very prestigious position in America, yea verily in the entire universe. The Apostle Paul states in II Cor. 5:20 that we have the privilege and high calling to be ambassadors for Christ, not for earthly politicians or political parties. That is because we are primarily citizens of Heaven (Phil. 3:20) and our highest priority should be the Kingdom of God and not the "kingdom" of America. I love America and want what is best for our country; however, as followers of Christ, that is not our highest priority! Matthew 6:33 says to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God!

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus clearly showed that our methods include being meek and loving our opponents, not seeking power to violently force God or our beliefs onto others. And God has made it easy for us to fulfill the Great Commission. He is bringing all sorts of people from diverse and multi-racial countries to our wonderful country so we have the opportunity to be witnesses for Christ ... without even leaving the country or going on a mission trip! These are all people He passionately loves and died for.

But Jesus, when did we see you in a prison that needed reform, or an immigrant or a refugee seeking safety, or a hungry child below the poverty level in the US? "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

#### CHARLIE SAW THE LIGHT

I am surprised how sad I have been since my brother, Terry, informed me that our friend Charlie Herron passed into eternity. Maybe it was a stark reminder of our mortality or how short life can be on this planet. It is a bit eerie and mystifying that Charlie has now become the 3<sup>rd</sup> member of our high school football team to pass into eternity AND that God opened doors allowing me to spiritually impact all 3 of these athletic young men, especially since they were all 1 or 2 years younger and I was not on that team. My brother, Dave, also had an impact on each of them as he was the star fullback who led the team to a state championship!



Charlie was one of my first sports friends as he was the best player on my little league baseball team. Charlie had the best batting average so I watched and emulated his style, and I ended up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> best batting average. Later in our teen years, I was the starting guard on our high school basketball team and Charlie would come off the bench to replace me when the coach felt I needed a break. I thought Charlie should have gotten more playing time ... except, of course, if it meant I would not play as much. 😊 Charlie was voted best athlete in his class.

I had not communicated with Charlie for years until just a few months ago when Terry let me know Charlie was **battling cancer**. We reconnected so I could let him know I was praying for him and to share a bit more about my faith, as well as some encouraging Bible verses like John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. It is not like the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid."

Here are a few excerpts of his inspiring replies and **final words to me**.

*"God bless you Larry. What a wonderful email you sent to me. I'm going to reread it several times and try to absorb it. What a wonderful message!"*

*Thank you very much for John 14:27. I will put that to memory and I will always remember it. I might even have it printed out and put it on my bedroom wall. What a wonderful, wonderful thought. As a matter of fact, I'm not just going to talk about it, I am actually going to write it out and put it on my bedroom wall. I absolutely love John 14:27 and it's something that I really need.*

*A few months ago my brother (Dean) posted on Facebook something about Lloyd people. He wrote: "Did you know that Larry Bubb, Lloyd class of 74, Dave Bubb, class of 76, and Terry Bubb, class of 80, were all valedictorians of their respective classes." Then I chimed in and said anyone who knew them knows that they were valedictorians and one of the most impressive families in the history of Lloyd High School or anywhere. I am being told by someone sitting next to me that all three of you were also **valedictorians in college**, which I don't doubt one bit. My friend told me that his mother said that your mother was one of the smartest people she ever met, if not the smartest.*

FRANK  
AND  
ERNEST  
by  
Tom Thaves

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*Just to make sure, I want you to know 100%, I am going to put John 14:27 on my bedroom wall. THANKS. I've never been very religious but I am trying to be a good Christian. 🙏*

*Back in January of this year, I had a hard time swallowing and I looked it up on the internet and it looked like it was something that wasn't that big of a deal, but it turned out that it was cancer. The first **three doctors gave me no chance**. They weren't even going to give me radiation or anything. So I got another doctor's opinion and he said he's going to do the best he can and he might be able to help me.*

*I have tried to become a Christian in the last two, three years, but it's just hard for me to believe. I remember very well you and Steve Williams talking to me about religion and I always enjoyed it and never thought anything bad about it at all. Some people don't like to be preached at but you all didn't really do preaching and I always liked that and I told people about how you and Steve were not pushy about it.*

*I've gotten on Facebook and told people to pray for me and the outpouring for me has been just absolutely wonderful. It has made my life better to see 50 to 100 people get on my Facebook feed and say they're praying for me. I've kind of had a new life after this cancer ... but not really."*

Charlie – Erlanger, KY  
(Charlie Herron passed away Nov. 9, 2023)

It is interesting to calculate that in Charlie's case, it seems to have taken more than 30 years for seeds planted back in high school to finally begin to blossom and grow into faith. So don't be disheartened or discouraged when you share your faith with someone and it seems like it is not making a difference.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Gal. 6:9*

By the way, I am keeping a list of family, friends, co-ministers, and supporters of LBM who have already passed on to the other side. I am up to 99 now.

I'm a fan of Taylor Swift ... I'm what you'd call a Swiffer!  
At least that's what Kristen hopes as I attempt to pick up  
around the house.



## LETTERS

Ed Note: I wrote Charlie's brother, Dean, to send my condolences and ask how he was doing after Charlie's passing (referring to my article beginning on page 2 about Charlie). He wrote me back ...

*Thanks for writing. It's weird losing a sibling, it's like losing a piece of yourself. I am not doing well myself (health-wise). Charlie's and my joke was ... who will go first? I've asked Jesus to take me home, but apparently He isn't ready.*

**Dean Herron – Erlanger, KY**

Dean also passed away this week, just a short time after Charlie did. (That makes 101 for the list I mentioned in my article about Charlie.)

*Hey Larry,*

*Just wanted to take you up on the offer to receive the Perihelion via email. Hopefully that will help save you some time and money each month ... and maybe even help cut back on the Tylenol too!*

*Also, the latest edition was excellent (as usual). Thank you for taking "risks" to share the truth ... which is not always easy in the current evangelical environment. So appreciate your wording and willingness.*

*Lastly, I'm not sure if you realize this ... but when you read the Perihelion backwards it spells out 999 ... oh wait, that's when you read it upside down. My bad. Nevermind!*

**Jon Self – Poway, CA**

*Hi Larry,*

*I just finished reading The Perihelion and as usual really enjoyed your comedy as well as your compassion that shines through. Also, I want to sign up for the email version of The Perihelion. Hope it saves you a few pennies!*

**Karen Corso – El Cajon, CA**

*Hi Larry,*

*I just received the latest version of the Perihelion. Thanks for sending it all these years. What a blessing it has been. Can I please request that I move from getting the mailed copy to the emailed copy? I think by now I have been receiving it by mail for around thirty years. Wow, what a great ministry you have. You have blessed and changed countless lives due to your ministry. I know it's not always easy but you're a great example of staying true to the call. All the best to you Larry.*

**Don Rich – Livermore, CA**

Ed. Note: The next 2 emails exemplify how simply expressing thanks can open doors to share the gospel. Only 1 of 10 came back to say thanks. **Luke 17:11-19**

*Hi Larry, It has been an absolute pleasure to help you, and the email responses of gratitude received from you mean more than you know.*

*There are so many people we go above and beyond for and they don't even respond with a thank you, so your words mean a lot.*

*I hope that you have the best day, and that the energy from today passes over to each and every following day to make that just as good.*

*Thank you again for brightening my day.*

**Robert – Aruba**

Ed Note: After working through some difficult challenges related to mailing out the Perihelion, I got this nice email from the manager of the company that prepares it.

*Good morning Larry, Thank you for being the most kind and sweet Customer in the world. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for being so nice about it. Have a wonderful Day!*

**Tina, Manager of Allstates Mailing – San Diego, CA**

### PRAYER REQUESTS/EVENTS

1. SEPT. 8 – HELP LEAD CHURCH SERVICE FOR LLOYD HIGH SCHOOL 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION – ERLANGER TRAIN DEPOT PARK
2. NOV. 17 – PREACH 10 AM @ HARVEST SOUTH BAY, TORRANCE, CA
3. THE VIRTUAL HOME GROUP I HELP LEAD
4. VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEOS TO REACH & TOUCH MANY (GO TO LARRYBUBB.COM VIDEOS LINK)
5. PREVIOUS ARTICLES IN THE ARTICLES/ARCHIVES SECTION OF THE WEBSITE TO INSPIRE MANY

Newsletter thanks to Melanie Donovan and Holly Smith!

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