



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Are you a Christian because of cultural, convenience, commitment or conversion?”

CEOs

In 45 years of church media ministries, I have been involved with many Passion plays, Good Friday services, and Easter services at various churches. I remember spending a lot of hours planning, purchasing, setting up, rehearsing, performing and tearing down. We always had packed crowds. Many people claimed to make decisions for Christ. However, in the weeks following, the crowds thinned down and sadly those that made their decisions often returned to their old ways.

There are several terms for these people. I like to call them CEOs (Christmas, Easter and Occasions). They will come to church out of obligation during religious holidays, for a wedding, baptism or a funeral, but other than that no way. If you are a CEO, please examine your heart. These occasional visits to the Lord’s house may make you feel good but you are not winning any favors with God. But yes it is true, that even if you do go to Church every week, it will still not get you into heaven. The first step is: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 Are you born again?

In 1854, a 20 year old Charles Spurgeon became the pastor of the New Park Street Chapel in London. The chapel seated 1,200 people but quickly became filled. Two years later they expanded it to allow for about 200 more seats. But soon this became so full that services had to be held in different rented halls. The elders decided to build new. The Metropolitan Tabernacle was finished in 1861 with 5,000 seats with standing room for another 1,000. Spurgeon continued to preach there several times per week for the next 31 years. He never gave an alter call but hundreds returned the next day for salvation.

This was done over 150 years ago without sound systems, power point, simulcast, special effects, special lighting, internet, promotions, drama, video, refreshments and entertainment. There were no motorized vehicles to bring people in. Their building was packed sometimes standing room only. There was no air conditioning and no snow removal equipment like today. How did they do it? Why not now?

If today’s churches would spend as much focus on developing dedicated believers and worshipers as they do on twice a year performances, their buildings would be overflowing and this county would have a real revival. Maybe we have become like the church in Revelation that lost their first love.

This Easter, we, as believers, should look at our own lives and ask what we can do through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to keep the visitors from becoming CEOs. Also, if you are a CEO, this Easter, trust the risen Lord to change your ways and your life. You will be glad you did. John 3:16



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“And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.” Acts 16:5



1854 Metropolitan Tabernacle
5,000 seats + 1,000 standing

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