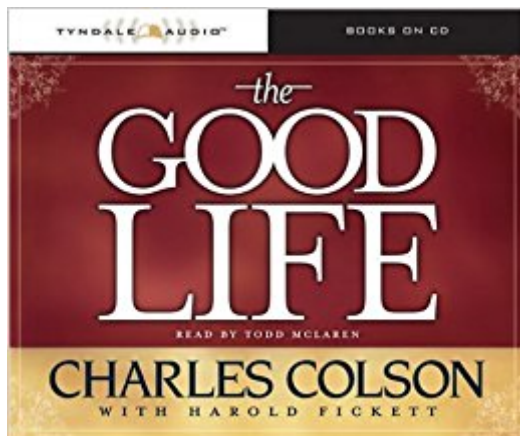


The book was found

The Good Life



Synopsis

Sharing from his own life, as well as the stories of others, Chuck Colson exposes the counterfeits of the good life and leads readers to the only true source of meaning and purpose, Jesus Christ. But he does that in an unusual way, allowing powerful stories to illustrate how people have lived out their beliefs in ways that either satisfy or leave them empty. Colson addresses seekers—people looking for the truth. He shows through stories that the truth is knowable and that the truly good life is one that lives within the truth. Through the book, readers get to understand their own stories and find answers to their own search for meaning, purpose, and truth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Colson—bestselling author, political figure and ministry leader—wrote this book to help readers answer "deep questions... that [determine] how we will live and how we will die and whether our lives will count for something." It is part memoir, as Colson reflects on his own rights and wrongs. For Colson, how people live comes down to their worldview—how their core beliefs about life shape their actions. He covers key paradoxes (i.e., "Out of suffering and defeat often comes victory") and spends a large section of the book establishing the existence of "capital-T truth," a concept Colson argues provides hope and "makes life a breathtaking challenge." He addresses a number of social and political issues, including evolution, euthanasia and homosexuality. Stories are central to this exploration, and Colson incorporates many different kinds: his own Watergate experience, popular films, stories of war and oppression, and front-page

business scandals. While he attempts to conduct his search "without relying on any prior assumptions or sectarian convictions," his Christian faith is ever present, and some who start from an opposing position may find his arguments weak. However, Colson's deep humility is striking, and many will welcome this well-researched book, built on his lifetime of learning and extraordinary experience. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With the aid of the excellent parable-writer/exegete Harold Fickett (see *Conversations with Jesus*, 1999), Colson reconfirms that he is a premier popular practitioner of Christian persuasion, especially for the un- and spottily churched. Instead of reflexively citing and quoting the Bible, he alludes to it, sparingly and pointedly, and his exempla come from broadly familiar sources, such as the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, and the lives of figures ranging from Olivier Messiaen to Madalyn Murray O'Hair, from death-row convicts to business tycoons. He considers good living and its grounds, which is to say, living for others while seeking and acting upon the truth. The book's long first part contrasts careers of self-motivation and hedonism with others of service and suffering to demonstrate that the former eventuate in disillusion and emptiness, the latter in fulfillment and satisfaction, independent of material success; the short second part discusses the rewards of giving. In the third part, Colson argues against relativism and for absolute truth, considerably more substantially than the ruck of "conservative Christian" commentators do; the exempla in this part are particularly engrossing and frequently high toned (e.g., the spiritual journey of Wallace Stevens). The concluding part considers ultimate things--providence, death, infinite love--and overtly proselytizes, very considerably, for the first time in the book. Colson's temperateness and reasonableness in all that comes before the call to faith increases its appeal, especially to those repelled by ranting and tears. Ray Olson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I just finished reading Chuck Colson's "The Good Life". This book was different from so many others written from a Christian viewpoint in that scripture itself was not the main vehicle used to persuade or convince the reader to believe. Instead, Colson follows lines of thinking to see what conclusions they naturally lead to, and I think he does it with uncommon skill, utilizing the richness of actual life stories, his own and others, to prove or clarify his claims. Colson is not trying to fit his readers into a belief system, he's trying instead to show that a belief system is what is needed to make sense of our often crazy world, to help us cope, and to give meaning to life. In his words, his goal is to

"examine the experience of living", because how we deal with that determines "how we will live, how we will die, and whether our lives will count for something." The book also is the only one I've ever read that deals with a problem so many seem to have: they think they BELIEVE in God, in Jesus, but they just have never felt a "connection" with God. Colson said he had the same problem, but finally discovered the answer. He said, "...my real problem has been what has always been the great hang-up of my life, the great sin, really; pride. I was so puffed up by what I could accomplish with my own mind that I couldn't imagine there would be something I couldn't figure out." He says (quoting from Pascal), "...'God has given us just enough light so that we can understand and just enough darkness or obscurity to deny the truth, if we wish'....If God were as plain to us as the tree outside our window...we would have no need for faith...We could not help but believe in God. It would be impossible to deny Him. This would destroy the possibility of CHOOSING to believe--of faith--and with it, the possibility of love, because love cannot be compelled. We cannot love God if we are not given the option of rejecting Him...Faith is not faith unless it is accompanied by doubt. Doubt is what gives faith its meaning, as hard as that is for tough-minded, analytical thinkers to recognize." I think this revelation alone could set thousands of people free. This book is well worth the read, and in fact it will be one of the very very few books I've read in my lifetime that I am eagerly intending to read again.

The author uses stories of real people to show that the good life is not what we usually think of. It's not based on money, fame, success, or any of the earthly values of society. The good life is one that brings glory to God and serves man.

Colson is a smart man with a deep knowledge of history and philosophy and a fascinating life who shares in a very readable and engaging way what he's learned about finding true happiness, contentment, joy, and fulfillment in life. His use of true stories to illustrate concepts is entertaining, and I found myself highlighting passages every few pages. I'm about to reach the end and have already decided to reread it because it's so packed with great wisdom that I want to try to absorb more of it. I HIGHLY recommend this book to everyone. It indirectly makes a case for Biblical Christianity, but at the same time, it provides a very fair and intelligent representation of the secular world view. Loved this book!

This is a very good book that speaks to the Christian Worldview and the impact that living for Christ can have on the individual and on the world in which we live. I have always enjoyed the down to

earth writing of Mr. Colson as he shares his walk of faith and the impact he has had on the lives he has touched.

I have found this book to be a perfect vista & Gateway into The Goodness, The Grace, The Power and The Reality of God on earth today! It is not Salient or Overbearing in this regard, as a religious sermon might be; Rather it recounts some undeniable actions of God, in and under ordinary and natural circumstances. These can be thought of as Soft-Spoken-Miracles. (Miracle being understood as Occurrences in the natural order, from outside of the natural order.) The book is, in my opinion, a perfect stepping stone to another book by the same author, CHARLES COLSON entitled How NOW Shall We Live? The which is not an exaggeration on my part to say that this duo of books is complemented by The Bible and in turn complements the intended significance of The Bible.

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I bought the audible of this book so I can listen in the car on my way to work and back. One time my grandson, age 11, was in the car with me and he was deeply moved by the author's story. He exclaimed, "Wow, that's something else..that really happened?" I am glad I bought the audible too so I can listen to it over and over. I have a friend who has the hardback and he recommended the author to me. I was sorry to hear there will be no more books by C. Colson as he passed away. He has gone to heaven with Jesus and His glorious angels.

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