



# The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life

*Charles W. Colson , Harold Fickett*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life

*Charles W. Colson , Harold Fickett*

**The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life** Charles W. Colson , Harold Fickett  
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.

## The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life Details

Date : Published June 1st 2005 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9780842377492

Author : Charles W. Colson , Harold Fickett

Format : Hardcover 394 pages

Genre : Christian, Christian Living, Nonfiction, Religion, Christianity, Faith, Philosophy

 [Download The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Y ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life**  
**Charles W. Colson , Harold Fickett**

---

## **From Reader Review The Good Life: Seeking Purpose, Meaning, and Truth in Your Life for online ebook**

### **Jerry says**

The late Charles "Chuck" Colson delivers an amazing message that the entire world needs to hear. As our planet moves away from its Creator, the outlook for the future isn't good...but, God is still in control. Whether He comes back mere minutes from now or in a thousand years, we must be ready...and live our lives in anticipation of His return. Unfortunately, society is so far gone that it seems to be a lost cause; that's what makes Mr. Colson's words here all the more important.

---

### **Rhonda says**

Chuck Colson, who served time in prison for his involvement with the Watergate Scandal, is now a converted Christian man and has written over 20 books, and is involved in prison ministry. This book is about seeking meaning and purpose in life.

#### **Favorite Quotes:**

"The people we influence in a positive way constitute the real and lasting monuments of our lives." p 157

"Providence is the Christian's answer to fate, destiny, or chance. Christians believe that God has a purpose for history and that He works this purpose out through people's lives." p 352

"If God is with us, if the steps of our lives are indeed ordered not by fate or luck but by divine Providence, then so, too, are the events of our deaths. A truly good life looks forward to a final mercy, a good death. Is there such a thing? What does death reveal about the way we have lived?" p 353

"Living the ogod life means not only living it to the fullest every moment we're alive but also facing death with equanimity and then dying well. A lot of people have this wrong. They think that you live life to the fullest and enjoy every moment you can, and then when death comes, you simply accept the hard fact. The good time is over. Life is ended. " p 356

"Death calls us to consider what this life is for, even as our longings for eternity suggest that mortal life is but a preparation for immortality. That's why a Christian's natural fear of death is mitigated; death is merely a transition point from the world in which we have been privileged to live into the promised world to come. This is why Christians face death with equanimity and in some cases even joy. " p 360

" What is the good life? What does it mean to live well? We saw that living for ourselves brings only misery. The way to live successfully is to live for others. But in doing so, you must find the truth and live it, lest you bring destruction to yourself and those you re serving. Only a life lived in service to the truth can be a good life.

We've talked together about the truth and exposed the big lie that says there is no truth, that his is a purposeless, random universe. The truth can be known; we see itin an intelligently designed universe, one that has a purpose. In fact, nature everywhere suggests her purposes, so much so that the moral order is simply complimentary to the natural, physical order. And truth is knowable from observing how these laws

work, testing them, and living accordingly. Our appreciation of beauty, our emotions, and our reason powerfully suggest the existence of God and His care for us. Everything we have discovered points to the Christian worldview as the only one that 'fits' the way the world works and that fills the needs of the human heart. Everything else, as I hope I've made clear, turns out to fail in some key respect. Clearly, the postmodern generation is in the grip of a philosophical framework that makes life unlivable. The intelligent seeker has good reason to reject the big lie of the postmodern world and to find the sources of renewal offered by Christianity.

But we have to confront one last, stunning, paradoxical truth: You cannot find the good life through searching alone. You have to be found by God. In the end, all seekers discover that while they thought they were searching for God, God was searching for them. He longs for us and pursues us. That's why reason alone falls short. The sin that is in our nature corrupts our will---as well as every other faculty, including reason---and blocks us. Only God transforms the will." p 366

---

### **Colleen says**

OK, this is a must read for every one from an amazing, empathic and humble servant of the Almighty. I learn more history, vocabulary, wisdom and wonder with every Colson book I read. Bless you, man! Highly recommend to Christians and non-Christians alike. This book contains the most straightforward, simple account of Watergate in Ch. 2, A Shattered Life, for those who would like to really understand what happened and Colson's real role in it.

Miss the usual very extensive index that he usually includes, though.

---

### **Sylvia says**

Thirty five years ago a White House cover-up shook the nation. In the midst of the national controversy were the individual lives that would never be the same. One of those lives is that of Charles Colson. After serving time in prison for releasing confidential FBI information, Colson underwent a transformation, a conversion. He told about his conversion in his popular book *Born Again*. More than three decades later he's telling his story again, but from a more developed perspective, in his recent book, *The Good Life*.

The premise of *The Good Life* is that a good life can be found in serving others and serving them in truth and not wasting your life satisfying just your own selfish desires. Do not serve others just to promote your own self-interest. Instead, we are challenged to serve others because of who Jesus Christ is and what He did for us on the cross at Calvary.

*The Good Life* isn't completely about Charles Colson. In fact, his is just one of many stories the authors share to explore the issues of purpose, meaning, and truth in this life. Reflections are offered on men who "had it all," such as L. Dennis Kozlowski (former CEO of Tyco International), as well as people who endured devastating pain and suffering, such as Nien Cheng (a woman who suffered under Communist rule in China).

Some of the important points, but not all, covered in the book include: 1. We acknowledge the evil to embrace the good. 2. When people are too idle, they lack purpose. We were wired to have a purpose in life. 3. Our own personal happiness must never be the ultimate goal in our lives. 4. Living independent of others is unhealthy - we are meant for community. 5. Integrity is more important than loyalty. Get that wrong and your world collapses.

Highly recommend book to read, enjoy, and be challenged to make the most of the rest of your life for God's glory.

Received e-book for my nook for a review.

---

### **Phillip says**

So. This was a gift from someone else, and I was a bit dubious that the perspective would be from the "other" side of the Christian theological perspective than where I am. That being said, I did enjoy the first half of the book. I was true about the perspective -- but, always trying to be open, I did enjoy many of the things Mr. Colson had to say. It does get you to think about your faith, and I did carry away a few things about it.

..but then came the second half of the book. Once the author tried to delve into "social issues," it was a 100% turn-off that had me considering stopping reading. But A) It was a gift and B) Open mind, so I plowed through. I'm not going to get into the issues...just in complete disagreement with his opinions and his theology. It would be an essay getting into why I believe what I believe, and some points I would put forth about why I think he construes the Bible and Christian theology. But ... whatever. The other complaint I would have is he references movies A LOT as examples. I'm not sure works of fiction work best as life examples, but maybe that's just me. Also, anything he would construe G-d Person v. Non-G-d person, the examples were so extreme, it just left me nonplussed about the point he was trying to make.

Certainly Mr. Colson has done a lot of good with his prison ministry (and Heaven knows I'm a Nixon-junkie), but if you are more of the fundamentalist side, then you may find this book interesting. But I thought his meandered in his thesis, tried to write a "truth-seeking book" that (as he states in the beginning) wouldn't be about Christianity specifically...then ends the book with "I think I proved why only Christianity is true and the rest are not." You don't need to lie, man, to get me to read a book. So.

I gave it two stars v. one star because I did enjoy having an open mind about the first half, and I did get something from it.

---

### **Stephanie Curr says**

Amazing Book!

---

## **Lynn Joshua says**

Chuck Colson is a great storyteller, and he makes his point clearly on where truth and meaning are to be found through the use of stories and short biographies. He uses his skills as an apologist to draw you along in a gentle but powerful way, and makes his case through real life examples and interesting illustrations. You could share this book with anyone who is a "seeker" for truth.

This book is not at all difficult and would be good for someone who may not have the time to read a more technical apologetics work.

This seems to be a summary of his earlier book, *How Shall We Now Live*. While that book is much more comprehensive if you don't have the time to read a book of that length, then I think *The Good Life* is a simpler restating of the same philosophy and worldview.

---

## **Fergus says**

### **WAKING UP IN A BRUTAL WORLD!**

This was one of my favourite books of last year, and the only work of non-fiction in that category....

Where do we find ourselves in the world we have made, now that we are citizens of the 21st century?

Do we see our place in the world as purposeful, satisfying and full of joy?

Or do we see ourselves as an animal on a meaningless treadmill, searching for something that will satisfy its restlessness, vaguely weary of the senselessness of this nonsense they call life?

If you're either of these people, you'll find much to challenge and inspire you in these pages.

Charles Colson did his time in Purgatory. He was forever typecast by the American public as Richard M. Nixon's "hatchet man."

He knew what it was to be a pariah in exile from the illusions of middle America.

But he eventually found his way out of that black hole - and redeemed himself in the eyes of most people - by spending the rest of his life doing the patient, thankless and humbling work of prison ministry.

I think we ALL do our time in purgatory. For some, it comes hard and relentless in their 'Golden' Years. For others, it comes sooner.

For me, it started in early middle age - I guess I was one of the lucky ones. And its Fire in me seems now for the most part spent...

The Dove descending breaks the air

With flame of incandescent terror  
Of which the tongues declare  
The one discharge from sin and error.

Who then devised the torment? Love.  
Love is the unfamiliar name  
Behind the hands that wove  
The intolerable shirt of pain.

We only live, only suspire  
Consumed by either fire or Fire.

In Colson's well-written pages you'll find much to thinker about, if you've already set out on your path through the fire of the spirit.

Vivid contemporary illustrations from:

The 'upper' echelons of society, and the utter vacuity of the lifestyles of those opulently wealthy folks featured in the tabloids...

The persecution and torture of well-intentioned, good, and patient people under Mao's Red Guard, and the remarkably selfless heroism of one lone, falsely condemned Chinese woman...

Or the spiritual triumph of an inspired group of Allied POW's on the infamous River Kwai, striving amid the horrors of wartime brutality and in spite of the squalor of their concentration camp to build a vibrantly human, sharing life among themselves!

The wide variety of stories makes for rich and heartening reading.

But the stories have one purpose...

To bring us to a place where we, too, can lead lives that are meaningful, satisfying and joyous.

Yes, we now live in a Dark World. But the Light ahead of us is SO real:

Lead, kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom  
Lead thou me on.  
The Night is dark, and I am far from Home -  
Lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet - I do not hope to see the Distant Scene -  
One step enough for me.

Do yourself a favour, and read this book! It'll give light to your soul.

And it'll inspire your daily life, giving new meaning to it - sub specie aeternitatis!

---

## **E says**

This is a peculiar little book. It is partially a memoir, but also partially a book to convince doubters of the Christian worldview. Colson might try to tackle too much in this book. He covers everything from evolution to euthanasia to homosexuality to forgiveness. It's full of illustrations, which are interesting and well-written.

I went through most of the book thinking, "This is pure moralism." He finally gets around to grounding things in the gospel in the last few chapters. It's set up this way because of its intended audience, but it's still a little troubling.

---

## **Bill Fitzpatrick says**

I read this book a number of years ago and have passed it on to others, always buying new copies if I did not get my copy back from whomever received it from me. It contributed significantly to major lifestyle changes in me. While the world had been telling me all along that the Good Life was all about looking good, feeling good, and gathering the goods, I found out about the authentic Good Life and have been pursuing it ever since.

---

## **Jennifer Tse says**

A wonderful book about what the good life is. Although it's a bit long, it covers every other worldview: arts, postmodernism, Atheism, pleasure, materialism, etc. and explains why a life lived without knowing the truth is not the good life. It talks about what the Christian principles of loving others, giving ourselves, knowing God, etc. are what leads to the good life. I enjoyed reading about real people like Jack Eckerd vs. Hugh Hefner (Playboy founder), Randy, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, Nien Cheng, and Dennis Kozlowki. If you don't have time to read the whole book, I recommend reading the chapters "Morality and the Natural Order," "Hope, Freedom, and Happiness," "Providence," and "A Good Death." A wonderful book for seekers and also a wonderful book for Christians to solidify our foundations.

Favorite Quote: "When I was sent to prison, my greatest fear was that I would never be able to do something significant in life again. Now I saw I would never have been able to do anything truly significant without prison. My fall enabled my life and my work to rise. As the Lord told the apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Nothing had changed in the Roosevelt Room; yet everything was different because I had changed. Utterly. Just like Robert Sutton. Robert Sutton (an African American graduate of Prison Fellowship's InnerChange program) and I are exactly the same. Our spiritual journey are similar. The most powerful man in the world might have been praying with us, but we were ALL alike because we all stand on level ground on the foot of the cross."

---

## **Dayo Adewoye says**

An engaging exploration of what constitutes a good life. Through several remarkable stories and careful reasoning, Colson helps the reader ask hard but essential questions about their existence. At the end, we find



that only the Christian worldview can provide reliable answers to these crucial questions. A wonderful book!

---

### **Rosa Gandarilla says**

Finally got the time to come back to this one.

I didn't buy this book, it was a present from one of my church leaders. It came to me in a time where I was struggling with finding meaning in my life. I am in college pursuing an undergrad degree, I have enough money to live comfortably, I have friends and family. But, am I leaving a good life, one that will mean something when I die?

What an amazing reading for those who have questions about what life is about and whether there is a purpose. I am a Christian, however, there were so many questions I had that this book help me figure out, specially those regarding Creation and the validity of the Bible. If you are wondering what makes Christianity different from other religions and how people can find freedom, true joy and fulfillment by declaring Jesus as their Lord and Savior, read this book.

I recommend "The Good Life" as the beginning of anyone's search for the truth.

---

### **Robert Henry says**

Excellent book.

---

### **Allison says**

Really thought provoking. A rather philosophical book but full of stories - from movies, from books, from friends, from himself which makes it an interesting, fairly easy read.

I don't think I realized before just how brilliant Chuck Colson is though. For one illustration, he is talking about a friend of his and says "we could talk about the natural order, Aristotle, Anselm's proof of God and the medieval synthesis of Aquinas." He was trying to point out how bright his friend was, but anyone who even knows what the medieval synthesis of Aquinas is ranks as brilliant in my book. (I don't pass.)

But, for all his intelligence, the book has a very humble tone and he even mentions in the intro: "The search for truth and meaning is a life long process, and if you ever think you have all the answers you can become insufferable and dangerous."

I'm going to have to keep this one out to re-read again soon.

---