

Born Again

Charles Colson was an Assistant to Richard Nixon. As he was facing his trial and incarceration a friend gave him the book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. Colson read it and became an evangelical Christian. He pled guilty to Obstruction of Justice and served 7 months in prison. While in prison he became involved in a bible study group and the Prison Fellowship Organization. He went on to support the Prison Fellowship and worked at reforming prisoners and helping families and prisoners. He wrote the book "Born Again." He went from being known as Nixon's "Hatchet man" to helping to save souls. He had been ruthless in his role in Nixon's administration, and willing to do anything, to a man who supported those in prison and their families. Colson was the author of over 30 books, a speaker to groups, a broken man rescued by a forgiving God. A man who led others to Christianity. A man who was born again. I have known people who have reformed themselves through the power of Christ. One was a friend of my brothers. Don had a rough childhood, poverty and abuse were part of his life. He was in frequent trouble. He had accidently run over me with a bicycle when I was 3 or 4 and never failed to apologize to me whenever he saw me even years later. He had been shot with buckshot and lost an eye, dropped out of school, been involved in the assault on a young woman with 4 other boys and spent a year in Jackson prison. When my future husband and I were dating we were alone in the living room when there was a pounding at the door. I went to the door, and it was Don, covered in mud and water and asking for my mother. He had been running and hiding in ditches until he came to a safe place. I called my mother out of bed and told her Don was in trouble. He had been in a fight with some other boys, and they had torn up a restaurant and been arrested. The police when questioning Don had left him alone in a room with an open window. Don took off through the window and came to my mother for help. She had him clean up and called his girlfriend and she came and took him home. Now at that point I had not seen Don in several years, but he still apologized to me for the bicycle incident. After that I did not see or hear about Don as I was no longer living at home. Don was killed in an airplane accident several years later. He was in his mid-30's. In his obituary it said that he had children and had been active in the scouts and in his church and a quote by his Pastor about what a wonderful man Don had been and how he served the church. Don had found himself, had a family, and had found God. He received a second chance and was born again.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:5 "I tell you the truth no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the spirit gives birth to spirit.

Lord, we thank you for the blessing of this day. May all we do be pleasing to you. We thank you for our homes, for our food, for those who are in our lives. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Comfort them. Be with our staff and leaders. Bless them and keep them. Be with our Pastor Don and Laura and their family. Keep them safe and be with them in all they do. Be with our church, may we be the voice of Jesus to others. Be with those who hunger and thirst for you God, may they find you here in this place. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson