



One Mind – Hope

One Easter morning, as I sat in the Chapel at the Delaware State Prison waiting to preach, my mind drifted back in time... to scholarships and honors earned, cases argued and won, great decisions made from lofty government offices. My life had been the perfect success story, the great American dream fulfilled.

But all at once I realized that it was not my success God had used to enable me to help those in this prison or in hundreds others like it. My life of success was not what made this morning so glorious – all my achievements meant nothing in God's economy. No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure – that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation – being sent to prison – was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; he chose the one experience in which I could not glory for *his* glory.

Confronted with this staggering truth, I understood with a jolt that I had been looking at life backward. But now I could see: Only when I lost everything that I thought made Charles Colson a great guy had I found the true self God intended me to be and the true purpose of my life.

It is not what we do that matters, *but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us.*

Source: Charles Colson "Loving God"

Only God can take a dark and humiliating time in our life and turn it into hope and a way to glorify Him.

Scripture

Read Hebrew 10:19-24

Discovery Questions

1. Reread vs. 19 and 20. Why do we have a new confidence?
2. In the Old Testament the people could only approach God through the High Priest. Now that Jesus is that High Priest, how can we approach God? (vs. 22)

3. We have hope because of what? (vs. 23)

4. Verse 24 says "let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Is there a "negative" in your life that God can use to minister to others?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Lord, may I come boldly into your presence and commune with You
- Dear God, continue to draw me near to You; fill my life with Your will
- Because of You, God, I have a new hope, may my life reflect that
- Show me ways, Dear Lord, that I may bring hope to those around me.