

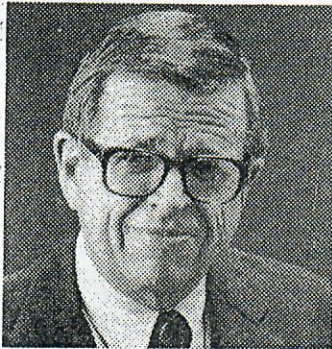
# The Living Arts

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The New York Times

## AWARDS



### Watergate Figure Wins Religion Prize

Charles Colson receives an award worth \$939,000.

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## Charles Colson Wins Templeton Prize in Religion

By NADINE BROZAN

"Does crime pay?" Charles W. Colson was asked at a news conference yesterday morning.

Mr. Colson, President Richard M. Nixon's special counsel who served seven months in prison for conspiracy in the Watergate cover-up, smiled, paused and said, "In my life, crime has paid in riches far beyond money."

But riches were the topic of the news conference at the Church Center for the United Nations, at which Mr. Colson, 61, was the main speaker. He has been named the winner of the 1993 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, the largest monetary prize in the world, worth £650,000, or about \$939,575. It is to be presented at Buckingham Palace on May 12. The prize was established 21 years ago by Sir John Marks Templeton, an American-born financier now living in the Bahamas, to compensate for the fact that Nobel Prizes are not given for religious work.

A born-again Christian, Mr. Colson said that he would donate the prize to the Prison Foundation,

the organization he founded in 1976 to bring Christian ministries into prisons in the United States and 54 other countries. The foundation now has a staff of 280, and 50,000 volunteers in this country.

Mr. Colson said he had already undergone spiritual rebirth, when Jesus was revealed to him, before he went to prison. At that moment, there he was, "the toughest of Nixon's tough guys, his hatchet man, weeping in a car," he said. But that revelation was not enough to lead him to his present mission. "I shudder to think where I would be without prison," he said. "I had to go to prison to do God's work."

His rise to extraordinary power and his precipitous fall reflected, "God's amazing grace," he said.

Sir John, 80, was asked if he was troubled that the prize he established would go to a man whose name was associated with political scandal. "No," he said. "I hope it will be an inspiration to others with a less-than-desirable background. St. Paul was in prison too; so was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn."

Mr. Solzhenitsyn and Mother Teresa are among the previous winners.