

## DEFEATING DECEPTION!

### Following Jesus – The Resurrection “Cover-up”

Matthew 28:11-15

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#### Bottom Line:

Immediately after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a cover-up began to deceive people and keep them from the truth. Believers need to stand against deception and be powerful voices for God’s truth in our culture today!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *the Truth....Identify the* \_\_\_\_\_  
*that exists in our world today! Matthew 28:11-14*

A. *It’s still deception no matter how* \_\_\_\_\_  
*the lie is.*

B. *It’s still deception no matter* \_\_\_\_\_  
*people believe it.*

C. *It’s still deception no matter how much those who believe*  
*the lie* \_\_\_\_\_ *for believing the truth.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ *the Truth....* \_\_\_\_\_ *yourself to*  
*respond to deception with the truth that you believe in!*  
*Matthew 28:11-14; 1 Peter 3:15*

- Deceptive Theories:

#### 1. “STOLEN BODY THEORY” (PASSOVER PLOT THEORY)

Disciples removed the body while guards slept.

- whose testimony was given if guards slept;
- death penalty for sleeping;
- rolling stone failed to wake the guards??

2. “STOLEN BODY 2 THEORY” The authorities moved the body from the tomb.  
- authorities would have had every motivation to produce the body of Christ to stop the growth of the church, but they couldn’t.

3. “THE WRONG TOMB THEORY” The women went to the wrong tomb.  
- That would mean everyone else went to the wrong tomb as well...impossible!  
- Roman or Jewish leaders would have produced the body easily.

4. “HALLUCINATION THEORY” - The witnesses were hallucinating.  
- Hallucinations are highly subjective.  
- Do not persist for forty days over numerous sightings.  
- Hallucinations cannot be touched.  
- Over 500+ saw him so a “group hallucination” would be required – virtually impossible.

5. “SWOON THEORY” - Jesus never died on the cross only swooned (fainted).  
- Shows ignorance of the violence of the crucifixion.  
- Shows ignorance of the injuries Jesus sustained.  
- The impossibility for Jesus to open the tomb and overpower the guards.  
- The impossibility for Jesus to convince the disciples that He has power over death when He would have been so badly injured.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ *the Truth....Counter the spread of*  
*deception with a passion to* \_\_\_\_\_ *the truth!*  
*Matthew 28:15; John 8:44; 2 Peter 2:1-22*

#### Now What?

1. Live out your conviction that truth is found in the Word of God.
2. Believe the Word of God, but also be able to defend it.
3. Identify deception when you hear it and be a voice for truth in our culture.