

# Co-conspirator Colson gives analysis Watergate cover-up compared to "Passover Plot"

One of the major theories put forth to explain away the resurrection of Jesus Christ proposes a "Passover plot" by the disciples. This theory says the disciples stole the dead body of their leader and propagated the lie of His resurrection, subsequently covering-up the "true" events concerning his death. In his book *Loving God* Charles Colson compares the Watergate cover-up to the supposed cover-up of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

### A Cover-up Dies

Colson writes, "History reveals that after the criminal investigation of the White House began--the end of Mr. Nixon's presidency was only a matter of time. The serious cover-up, the part everyone knew or should have known was criminal--really began March 21, 1973. And it ended April 8, 1973.

"With the most powerful office in the world at stake, a small band of hand-picked loyalists, no

"Yet after just a few weeks the natural human instinct for self-preservation was so overwhelming that the conspirators, one by one, deserted their leader, walked away from the cause, turned their backs on the power, prestige, and privileges.

### Possible Resurrection Explanations

"So what does all this have to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Simply this: Modern criticism of the historic truth of Christianity boils down to three propositions: first, that the disciples were mistaken; or second, that the disciples knowingly perpetrated a myth, intended as a symbol; or third, the eleven disciples conceived a 'Passover plot'--spirited the body of Christ out of the tomb and disposed of it neatly--and to their dying breaths maintained conspiratorial silence.

"Let's consider each. The first is the shakiest... The Scriptures state very honestly that the disciples were so staggered by Jesus' reappearance that

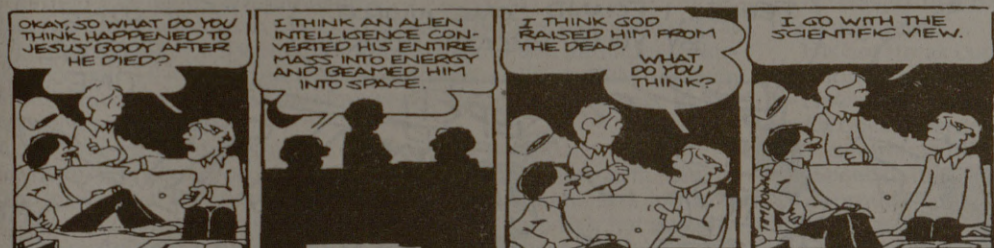
most conclude that there was a conspiracy--a cover-up if you will--by eleven men with the complicity of up to five hundred others. To subscribe to this argument, one must also be ready to believe that each disciple was willing to be ostracized by friends and family, live in daily fear of death, endure prisons, live penniless and hungry, sacrifice family, be tortured without ever once renouncing that Jesus had risen from the dead!

"This is why the Watergate experience is so instructive for me. If John Dean and the rest of us were so panic-stricken, not by the prospect of beatings and execution, but by political disgrace and a possible prison term, one can only speculate about the emotions of the disciples...

### Could a Lie Survive?

"Is it really likely, then that a deliberate cover-up, a plot to perpetuate a lie about the Resurrection could have survived the violent persecution of the apostles...? Is it not probable that at least one of the apostles would have renounced Christ before being beheaded or stoned?"

Colson concludes, "Take it from one who was inside the Watergate web looking out, who saw first hand how vulnerable a cover-up is: Nothing less than an experience as awesome as the resurrection of Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive and Lord."



more than ten of us, could not hold a conspiracy together for more than two weeks.

"Think of what was at stake: Each of us involved...believed passionately in President Nixon. To enter government service for him we had sacrificed very lucrative private law practices and other endeavors; we had sacrificed our family lives and privacy; we had invested our whole lives in the work...Only a few months earlier the President had been re-elected in an historic landslide victory; the ugly Asian war was finally over; we were riding the crest in every way.

### Not Enough Incentive to Lie

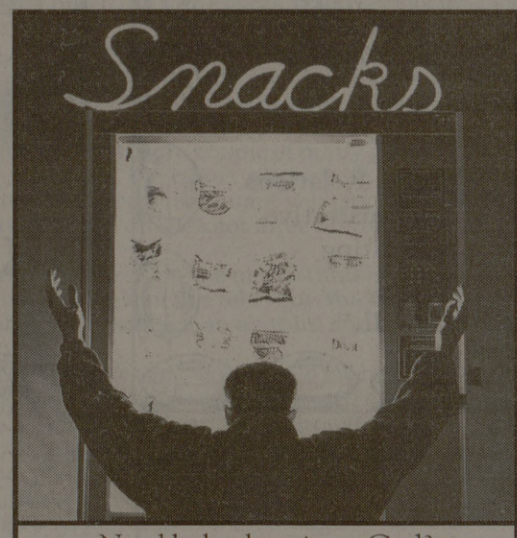
"Think of the power at our fingertips... Think of the privileges... Yet even the prospect of jeopardizing the President we'd worked so hard to elect, of losing the prestige, power, and personal luxury of our offices was not enough incentive to make this group of men contain a lie... There was certain to be keen embarrassment; at the worst, some might go to prison... But no one was in grave danger; no one's life was at stake.

at least one demanded the tangible proof of fingering the wounds in His hands and side... Luke says, "He showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days... The records of the event, written independently by various eyewitness reporters, believe the possibility that the disciples were mistaken.

"But could it have been a myth... (used) to convey religious truths through symbols? But this assumes that all the disciples understood that they were using a symbolic device. Even a cursory reading of the Gospels reveals not allegory or fable, but a straightforward, narrative account. Moreover, Paul, an intimate associate of the original disciples, shatters the myth theory altogether when he argues that if Jesus was not actually resurrected, Christianity is a hoax, a sham. Nothing in Paul's writings remotely suggests mythology.

### A Possible Passover Cover-up?

"... So if one is to assail the historicity of the Resurrection and therefore the deity of Christ, one



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<http://www.leaderu.com>

**A Community of Hope**  
  
 Christ United Methodist Church  
 Meeting at College Station Jr. High on Rock Prairie Rd. 690-HOPE  
 Jerry House, Pastor  
 homepage: [www.rtis.com/reg/bcs/org/christum](http://www.rtis.com/reg/bcs/org/christum)  
 7:00pm at Jr. High - Good Friday Service  
 Easter Sunrise Service - 6:45 am  
 on church property  
 (south on Hwy 6 between Rock Prairie and Greens Prairie near Desert Hills Hospital)  
 Easter Worship - 8:30 and 10:45 am at C.S. Jr. High

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 "...until Christ is formed in you..."  
**Grace Bible Church**  
 701 Anderson, C.S.  
 693-2911  
 College Impact: 11:00 a.m.  
 Regular Services:  
 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Dwight Edwards, Senior Pastor  
 Jeff Paine, College Pastor

**Southern Oaks BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 4301 Carter Creek Pkwy.  
 Bryan, Texas 77802  
 (409) 846-4042 • email: [sobc@myriad.net](mailto:sobc@myriad.net)  
 Joe Dennis, Pastor  
**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**  
 AM Worship - 8:30, 10:45  
 Sunday School - 9:30  
 Col. 1:28 "...that we may present every man complete in Christ."

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church**  
  
**PSALMS OF HOLY WEEK**  
 12:15 PM Noonday Services  
 12:35 PM Lunch Served  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 7:30 AM Communion Service  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
 7:00 AM Sunrise Service & Breakfast  
 9:30 AM Church School  
 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship  
 1100 Carter Creek Parkway • 823-8073

**Christian Groups to Contact at Texas A&M**

Campus Crusade for Christ	Brad Cook	696-6798
Grace College Life	Jeff Paine	693-2911
Chi Alpha Christian Fell.	John Diescher	693-0924
Association of Baptist Students	Tommy Tucker	846-3223
United Campus Ministry	Frank Yates	846-1221
Reformed University Fell.	Chris Yates	776-1185
Central Baptist College Class	Kevin Ueckert	779-1591
1st Baptist Bryan College Cl.	John Herring	779-2434
Hillcrest Baptist College Cl.	Steve Biles	776-5731
Navigators	Steve Sywulka	847-6057
Inter Varsity Christian Fell.	Lynette Peine	260-2876
Baptist Student Ministries	Bob Mayfield	846-7722
Methodist Student Center	Max Mertz	846-4701

## He's no Houdini.

The great escape artist Harry Houdini vowed that his greatest feat would be to rise from the grave. He didn't deliver. But someone else did. Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead distinguished Him from all other religious leaders whose bodies still reside in their graves. This historical event gives proof to His claim to be God. Because of the empty tomb, people can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ that really works in today's world.

## FREE ARTICLE

For more information about the historical reliability of the resurrection of Jesus Christ entitled "Evidence for the Resurrection," please contact any of the professors below or send an email request to: [michael.neely@clm.org](mailto:michael.neely@clm.org).

### Natalie L. Allen

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Bill Cready

Accounting

Austin Daily

Accounting

Patsy Deere

Accounting

L. Murphy Smith

Accounting

Beth TeBeaux

Accounting

Sally Dee Wade

Accounting

Casper Wiggins

Accounting

Sue Zivney

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Walter Halsler

Aerospace Engineering

Thomas U. McElmurry

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Aerospace Engineering

Oral Capps, Jr.

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Agricultural Economics

Fred Ruppel

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Dan Hale

Animal Science

Paul Harms

Animal Science

Doug Householder

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Jimmy T. Keeton

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Biochemistry & Genetics

Liz Miller

Center for Teaching Excellence

Nancy Simpson

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Walter Daugherty

Computer Science

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James M. Griffin

Economics

Tim Gronberg

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Robert K. James

Educational Curriculum

Delmar Janke

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