



## 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

*1-2 Friends, let me go over the Message with you one final time—this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand and by which your life has been saved. (I’m assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you’re in this for good and holding fast.)*

*3-9 The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to me. It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don’t deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God’s church right out of existence.*

*10-11 But because God was so gracious, so very generous, here I am. And I’m not about to let his grace go to waste. Haven’t I worked hard trying to do more than any of the others? Even then, my work didn’t amount to all that much. It was God giving me the work to do, God giving me the energy to do it. So whether you heard it from me or from those others, it’s all the same: We spoke God’s truth and you entrusted your lives.* (The Message)

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Death is not final. The all of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Chapter 15 is a powerful piece on death and resurrection. A perfect choice considering the day we most remember those who have gone before us is just around the corner.

Each Memorial Day we leave flowers or small mementos on grave sites across America as we memorialize loved ones, veterans and unknowns. This year will be gut wrenching as families and a nation try to figure out how to memorialize the over 90,000 dead – victims of Covid-19, many of whom have yet to be buried.

How do we do that? How do we flee from a death knell that refuses to silence?

The Apostle Paul reminds each of us that Christ died for our sins; that He was buried and on the third day was raised from the dead. The resurrection. And because (as the good apostle says) our belief is the “real thing” and we are in this “for good and holding fast,” we know that God, through death, brings to life on the other side.

*Pastor Patty Nance*

