

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME (Matthew 26:26-29)

I. It is a memorial of a greater sacrifice.

- A. To give one's life for his/her country is an enormous sacrifice indeed.
- B. However, Jesus did more than suffer physically and die to secure our political freedom - He bore our sins (paid the price for our redemption).
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:24.
 - 2. Isaiah 53:4-5.

II. It pertains to a greater liberty.

- A. Freedoms such as speech, press, religion, assembly, right to bear arms and many others are wonderful and we should treasure them and petition our leaders to do so.
- B. However, Jesus died to give us spiritual liberty.
 - 1. He died to give us freedom from the bondage of sin (John 8:32-34).
 - a. The Lord's Supper was instituted while Jesus and His disciples observed the Passover, which was a memorial celebrating deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
 - b. Jesus provided a higher kind of deliverance and a new memorial.
 - (1) Jesus' blood was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).
 - (2) We receive this freedom at baptism (Romans 6:5-7, 17-18).
 - 2. Freedom from guilt (Hebrews 9:14).
 - 3. Freedom from the consequences of our sins (Romans 6:23).
 - 4. Freedom from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

III. It memorializes a "once-for-all" death.

- A. It is entirely possible that the battle for freedom in our land will have to be fought again.
 - 1. There are continuous interferences by the government where it concerns religious freedom. - for instance, in areas of church discipline.
 - 2. Also in freedom of speech matters - the enforcing of politically correct speech where violators are sent to "sensitivity training" sessions.
 - 3. The tax code is used against religious groups with threats of taking away their tax exempt status if they teach certain things.
- B. However, Jesus died "once for all" - He won the battle and does not ever have to fight it again (Romans 6:8-10).
 - 1. Under the Old Law, sacrifices were offered repeatedly (Hebrews 9:7).
 - 2. Jesus offered His blood once for all (Hebrews 9:11-12).
 - 3. Hebrews 9:24-28.
 - 4. Anyone who wishes may have the freedom that Christ offers, from now until His return.

5. The sacrifice never has to be repeated.

IV. It is a permanent memorial.

- A. Earthly memorials, no matter how ornate or well done, are temporary.
 - 1. Rachel's tomb was still known/seen 600 years later, but we don't know where it is today (Genesis 35:16-20; 1 Samuel 10:2).
 - 2. Even the great pyramids are deteriorating - some are even gone.
- B. The Lord's Supper is a permanent memorial, unaffected by time, the elements or even man's memory.
 - 1. There will never be a time when there is no unleavened bread or fruit of the vine..
 - 2. The Lord's Supper is to be observed until the Lord comes again (1 Corinthians 11:26).

V. It is a more widely observed memorial.

- A. Memorial Day is a U.S. holiday, not a world wide one.
- B. The Lord's Supper is observed by Christians all over the globe every Lord's Day.
 - 1. Christianity is not a national or regional religion - it is universal.
 - 2. It was observed in 1st century by Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42); by Asians in Troas (Acts 20:7); and by Greeks in Corinth (1 Corinthians 10:16).
 - 3. It is observed in numerous nations today.

VI. It is a more frequently observed memorial.

- A. Memorial Day is celebrated annually.
- B. The Lord's Supper is celebrated weekly (Acts 20:7).
- C. In neither case does it mean that we cannot think about it at other times - we can and should - but the actual observance is set at specific intervals.

VII. It is a more profound memorial.

- A. Earthly memorials are profound and touching.
 - 1. When you speak with veterans who have visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers or the "The Wall," you can tell those veterans were touched by it.
 - 2. Even visiting the graves of our dead loved ones and reading the engraving on the marker moves us.
- B. However, the Lord's Supper is far simpler but more profound.
 - 1. Think of Jesus giving unleavened bread to His disciples - this is my body, this do in remembrance of Me.
 - 2. Think of Him giving them the fruit of the vine - this is my blood of the New Testament.
 - 3. It is so simple yet so remarkable.
 - 4. It isn't what comprises the elements of the memorial, but what the memorial brings to mind that makes it so profound.