IN REMEMBERANCE 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).

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).
      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, not 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. It 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.