

Some Thoughts Regarding the Lord's Supper

The first monument built to memorialize a United States president was the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. It was begun in 1848 and completed in 1888. Made of marble, granite, and bluestone gneiss, it is both the world's tallest predominantly stone structure and the world's tallest obelisk, standing nearly 555 feet tall. Its cost to build in today's money would be around \$30 million.¹

The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal; it also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. The tomb is the centerpiece of a 42 acre complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenellated wall. Construction of the mausoleum was essentially completed in 1643, but work continued on other phases of the project for another 10 years. The Taj Mahal complex is believed to have been completed in its entirety in 1653 at a cost which in 2020 would be approximately \$916 million. The construction project employed some 20,000 artisans under the guidance of a board of architects.²

These are two of many examples of memorials that have been built through the years. The purpose of a memorial is to help us remember a person or an event. Countless millions of dollars have been spent to memorialize mere men and their deeds. How ironic that the death of the greatest man to ever walk the face of the earth should be memorialized by a simple piece of unleavened bread and a cup of grape juice. And yet, no memorial is greater because it symbolizes the price paid for the forgiveness of our sins, the body and blood of Jesus. Mere pennies can purchase the emblems that help us remember the immeasurable price Jesus paid to redeem our souls. I Peter 1:18-19 reads, "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." We call this the Lord's Supper or communion. It has its roots in the Old Testament Passover in which the blood of a spotless lamb saved physical lives (Exodus 12). It takes our minds back to a cross outside the city of Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago on which the blood of the pure and sinless Lamb of God poured forth to save souls. This is the simplest of memorials and yet it represents the most powerful truth. Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, paid the price for our sins so that we could have eternal life in heaven.

¹en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Monument

²en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taj_Mahal