FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. We often hear people say that one church is as good as another, and that all churches are right.
2. They say it does not matter which church you are a member of.
3. For all churches to be right (as many claim), then the following practices must be right:

I. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, EARTHLY HEADQUARTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE RIGHT.
1. The Roman Catholic church has its headquarters in Rome, Italy. The pope is the head.
2. The Latter-Day Saints have their headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.
3. The Pentecostal sects have their headquarters in different places.
4. All denominations have their earthly headquarters.
5. The New Testament church has no earthly headquarters.
   (1) The headquarters of the New Testament church is where the Head is, and that is in heaven.
   1. Jesus is the Head (Eph. 1: 22 - 23; Eph. 5:23).
   2. Jesus is at the right hand of God in heaven (Acts 2: 32 - 33, 36; Acts 7:56; Col. 3:1).
   3. Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17; James 4:12).
   4. Jesus cannot die and leave His headship (Rev. 1: 18; Rom. 6:9).

II. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, FAITH ALONE WOULD HAVE TO SAVE.
1. Because most all churches teach that "faith only" saves.
2. METHODIST: "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort". (Art. 9, Book of Discipline).
3. BAPTISTS teach that it is "solely through faith in Christ" (Hiscox Baptist Manual, p. 62).
4. EPISCOPALIAN: "We are justified by faith only" (Book of Common Prayer, Art. 11).
5. PRESBYTERIAN: Faith. . . "is the alone instrument of justification" (Confession of Faith, p. 48).
6. The BIBLE teaches that faith alone does not save:
   (1) James 2:24
   (2) Mk. 16:16
   (3) Acts 2:38
   (4) Heb. 5: 8 - 9
   (5) Matt. 7:21
   (6) Rom. 5:2
   (7) Eph. 2:8
   (8) God's grace is appropriated through the law of Christ (Rom. 8:2; Acts 20:24; Tit. 2: 11-12; James 1:25).

III. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WOULD HAVE TO BE RIGHT.
1. Most all denominations use instrumental music in worship.
2. The New Testament church did not use it.
   (1) Eph. 5:19
   (2) Col. 3:16
3. The use of instrumental music in worship is SINFUL:
   (1) Because it is not of faith (2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6).
   (2) Because it is not commanded by Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 3:17; 2 John 9 - 11).
   (3) Because it is not a good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
   (4) Because it goes beyond what is written (I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18).
   (5) Because it is another gospel (Gal. 1:6 - 9).
   (6) Because it is vain worship (Matt. 15:9).

IV. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RIGHT TO EAT THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ANY TIME.
1. Denominations eat the supper on any day of the week they choose.
2. They do not eat it every Lord's day.
4. The Lord's day and the Lord's supper have been joined together by God.
5. For all churches to be right, one would have to be able to eat the supper any day and at no special time.

V. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE NO PATTERN FOR FINANCES.
1. Denominational churches raise their money almost any way they can get it.
   (1) They take a collection in every assembly.
   (2) They sell all kinds of goods.
   (3) They rent property.
   (4) They beg from the general public.
2. The Lord's Plan:
   (1) I Cor. 16:1 -2
      1. WHEN? On the first day of the week.
      2. WHO? Everyone of you.
      3. WHAT? "Lay by him in store".
      4. HOW MUCH? "As God hath prospered him".
      5. WHY? That sufficient funds may be on hand.
   (2) 2 Cor. 9:6 - 7

VI. FOR ALL CHURCHES TO BE RIGHT, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ALRIGHT TO DISREGARD THE SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES.
1. All denominational and digressive churches disregard the silence of the word of God.
2. The word of God teaches that we must not disregard the silence:
   (1) 2 John 9
   (2) Rev. 22:18 - 19
   (3) Gal. 1:6 - 9
   (4) I Cor. 4:6
   (5) Deut. 4:2
   (6) 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17
   (7) Lev. 10:1 - 2; Lev. 16:12
CONCLUSION
1. I think you can see that for all churches to be right we would have to have another book besides the Bible to be our guide.
2. Denominationalism does not agree with the Bible.
3. There is only one true church, the one revealed in the New Testament.

Preached at Underwood Hts. 1983; Hebron Lane 1984; Midway 1985; Manslick Road 1985; Radio Tapes, Erwin TN 1986; Paragould AK 1986; Highview Chapline, KY 1987