

CULTS AND FALSE RELIGIONS

Scientology

REVIEW:

- What are the 3 assumptions that form the JW world view? (Divine guidance comes only through the WT Society; JW's alone have the truth about God; every other church is false and controlled by Satan.)
- What is the goal of Mormons? (To attain godhood on the basis of good works)
- What did we learn about Allah, the god of the Koran? (he is really Allah, the pagan moon god)
- What is the key belief of Buddhism? (Reincarnation, or the circle of life)
- What is the major problem of the Roman Catholic religion? (Human tradition is elevated above the Bible)
- Hinduism takes the bold step of proclaiming that we are _____. (God)

READING:

Genesis 3:1-5 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, **knowing** good and evil.”

INTRODUCTION:

“Here you are, standing in thorny and forbidding ground. Across the chasm is a higher plateau where things are far better. Scientology is the bridge across that chasm, from a lower to a much higher level of existence – a brighter happier world.” Scientology web site intro.

The Church of Scientology has received a lot of publicity in the last few years, with celebrities such as Tom Cruise and John Travolta revealing their connection to the cult. Other celebrities who have been involved with Scientology are: Candice Bergen, Demi Moore, Emilio Estevez, Kirstie Alley, Nicole Kidman, Brad Pitt, Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie Presley. There are now more than 3,200 churches, missions and groups in 154 countries. Unfortunately, many people are not aware of the movement and its dangers.

I. FOUNDER: Ron Hubbard (1911-1986).

- 1) Hubbard was a science fiction author prior to writing his many books on Scientology. When you learn more about Scientology, you'll realise that it is just **another work of science fiction!**
- 2) Hubbard believed himself to be the reincarnation of **Buddha**.
- 3) **Quotes of Hubbard:**
 - i) "There is no more over-rated quality in existence than faith."
 - ii) "All men shall be my slaves! All women shall succumb to my charms! All mankind shall grovel at my feet and not know why!"
 - iii) "Use the rules until they prevent you from doing your job. But if these stop you, then to _____ with the rules! Get the show on the road."
 - iv) "The only way you can control people is to lie to them. You can write that down in your book in great big letters. The only way you can control anybody is to lie to them."

v) "An enemy may be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist...[they] may be tricked, sued, lied to, or destroyed."

II. HISTORY / ORGANISATION:

- 1) **Essentially, Scientology is a strange and fantastic mix of Eastern philosophy, modern psychology, and occult practice.**
- 2) Scientology and its forerunner, Dianetics, were developed by Ron Hubbard. Dianetics started as a "science of mind", a self-help therapy, but it became a New Age "religion" when Hubbard's subjects began recalling incidents from previous lifetimes. Hubbard claimed that this proved Man's spiritual nature, which he dubbed "Scientology".
- 3) While Scientology publicly claims to simply be a brand-new deity-free philosophy (and therefore compatible with any religion), its roots can be traced to pagan spiritualism, gnosticism, and magick.
- 4) Dianetics grew out of the self-help movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Dianetics was positioned as an alternative to psychiatry. There was no faith and no religion involved; Dianetics was represented as being Pure Science.
- 5) Attempts by independent researchers failed to duplicate Hubbard's scientific claims and in many cases disproved them.
- 6) Snubbed by professional medical societies as a quack, Hubbard undauntedly continued his "research". Through shabby scientific method, Hubbard "discovered" various mental implants, placed there by psychiatrists on faraway planets trillions of years ago, which caused humans to behave irrationally. Hubbard manufactured a conspiracy against himself and Dianetics by the successors of these ancient psychiatrists, who are the source of human suffering on Earth.
- 7) **Thus, Dianetics grew purely from an ill-advised psuedo-scientific endeavour.**
- 8) The conversion of Scientology from a secular self-help group to a full-blown religion literally happened overnight. It all came together in response to various problems Hubbard was having with his "technology". For example, there were numerous IRS tax audits over Scientology's interesting accounting system. In response to all of these motivations, Hubbard changed his organisation to official "church" status. "It is entirely a matter for accountants and solicitors." (Hubbard)
- 9) Hubbard details Earth's further degradation and entanglement with implants. It details how an evil galactic space tyrant named Xenu solved an overpopulation problem 75 million years ago by:
 - i) Transporting undesirable people to Earth.
 - ii) Placing them in various volcanoes that didn't exist.
 - iii) Blowing them up with H-bombs.
 - iv) Catching the Thetans (spirits) with electronic ribbons.
 - v) Showing them bad movies to confuse them!
- 10) Since there were no higher level beings on Earth 75 million years ago, these disembodied spirits began inhabiting lower life forms, climbing the evolutionary chain to the bodies of primitive apes, passed from generation to generation to present-day man. Over time, these spirits degraded. They forgot their former abilities, went to sleep, and took drugs. Because there were more spirits than bodies, some of them became content to control a single body part, such as an elbow or knee.
- 11) "Scientology", as told by Scientologists, means "knowing how to know", or "the study of knowing". **Thus, Scientology is a gnostic [gnosis: to know] system in every sense of the word.** Through training and auditing, the Scientologist is unburdened of his Reactive Mind, and attains the Godlike state of Clear and Operating Thetan, and has the power to transform matter, energy, space, and time.

III. PURPOSE:

- 1) It seeks to release human potential, free the soul and restore man to his original state as a pure, immortal spirit.
- 2) That is, **the attainment of godhood** through the "scientific" therapies and practices of Scientology.
- 3) "A maxim in Scientology is that only those things which one finds true for himself are true. In Scientology one learns to think for himself – **it is a voyage of self-discovery.**" Scientology web site.

IV. **SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**: Ron Hubbard, whose writings have been officially termed “scripture.”

V. **CLAIM**: To be the **only** source for solving mankind’s problems.

VI. **KEY LITERATURE**:

1) “The writings and recorded spoken words of Ron Hubbard on the subject of Scientology collectively constitute the Scripture of the religion. He set forth the Scientology philosophy and technologies in more than 500,000 pages of writings, including dozens of books, and more than 2,000 tape-recorded lectures.” Scientology web site.

VII. **ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY**: Absolutely Rejecting.

1) According to Hubbard, all of us on Earth were implanted 75 million years ago with false memories which he collective calls "R6". These implants cause us to do all sorts of crazy things, but Hubbard's auditing [counselling] can break the power of the implants. Hubbard says that Christianity is nothing more than a religious system built on parts of the R6 implants. **Thus, the behaviour of the mentally ill was used as a model for Christianity!**

2) After establishing the origins of Christianity upon the ravings of the mentally ill, Hubbard goes on to deny the existence of Christ, saying instead that all men share the implant of the cross, which is part of R6. Thus, according to Hubbard, **responding to Christ is simply being under the control of a false memory implant.**

3) As a matter of Scientology doctrine, all religions are based on aberrations caused by the reactive mind (our subconscious). The purpose of Scientology is to free us from the reactive mind and thus by extension, all religions. In this way, **Scientology is absolutely opposed to religion.**

4) Throughout his life, Hubbard was critical of organized religion in general and Christianity in particular. Hubbard appears to have gone out of his way to attack God and Christianity.

5) At the highest levels of Scientology, the adherent is expected to **renounce** their previous faith.

VIII. **DOCTRINAL SUMMARY**:

1) **GOD**:

i) **There is no God or other divine intervention.** Thetans (spirits that inhabit you and me) simply agreed upon reality and it came into being.

ii) In other words, Hubbard is saying that **all of us are God** - we've just forgotten how to be omnipotent!

2) **JESUS**:

i) A **man** who was not particularly enlightened.

ii) Invented by the church to be the saviour of the world.

iii) Some scientologists say that he was an “operating thetan” aware of his true nature and abilities.

3) **MAN**:

i) In his true nature, **an eternal spirit being with divine powers** (Thetan).

ii) Today he is in bondage to this material world.

4) **SIN**: Falsehood or ignorance and especially that which opposes scientology.

5) **SATAN**: A Christian **myth**.

6) **THE FALL**: Not into sin, but into matter and ignorance.

7) **THE BIBLE**: Largely **irrelevant**.

8) **DEATH**:

i) A “dropping” of the body which all Thetans have experienced trillions of times.

ii) Scientology teaches **reincarnation** over trillions (!) of years.

9) **SALVATION**:

i) Enlightenment of the thetan as to his true nature and abilities.

ii) "Scientology seeks to bring one to a new level of spiritual awareness where he can reach his own conclusions concerning the nature of God and what lies in store for him after his present lifetime. Thus, like many Eastern religions, **salvation in Scientology is attained through personal spiritual growth and enlightenment.**" Scientology web site.

10) **WORSHIP: Self-worship.**

11) **HEAVEN AND HELL: Christian myths**, or mental implants from previous lives.

i) Hubbard says the Christian believe in the wrong kind of Heaven, that Heaven is a betrayal. Hubbard says "there was a heaven", implying it no longer exists.

ii) "...it can be shown that Heaven is a **false dream** and that the old religion was based on very painful **lie**..." (Ron Hubbard)

IX. BASIS IN THE OCCULT:

1) Hubbard was active in **black magic** prior to writing Dianetics.

2) Gerry Armstrong, Hubbard's biographer, also confirms Hubbard's black magick rituals, as does his son L. Ron Hubbard, Jr.

3) Hubbard himself confirms his links to **Aleister Crowley** of the Ordo Templo Orientis, a magician's sect organized in Europe in the early 20th century. Aleister Crowley is the most famous **Satanist** and **black magician** of the twentieth-century!

4) Scientology encourages the development of **psychic powers, out-of-body experiences**, and other occult practices.

X. TALKING WITH MEMBERS:

1) Ascertain whether they are open, or whether they just want to argue. **Don't waste your time if they are not open.** Proverbs 23:9; 29:9.

2) **Titus 3:9-11** ⁹"But **avoid** foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are **unprofitable** and **vain**. ¹⁰A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition **reject**; ¹¹Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

3) Give evidence for the validity of **Scripture**. Eg. Fulfilled prophecy; archaeology. 1 Peter 3:15.

4) Question the accuracy of Hubbard's "science"; ask why so many of his writings were contradictory.

5) Show the **uniqueness** and **deity** of Christ. John 10:30-33; 14:7-10; Hebrews 1.

6) Refute salvation by **works**. Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5.

7) **Present the simple Gospel! Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18.**

CONCLUSION:

Scientology may masquerade as science, but it is yet another lie of the Devil concocted to keep people from the truth of the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:3, 4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

REVIEW / QUESTIONS: