

What Lutherans Believe

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Keith Chuvala, Keith@BackToTheBibleCatechism.com

Scientology

From http://www.scientology.org/en_US/index.html

Introduction to Scientology

The word Scientology literally means "the study of truth." It comes from the Latin word "scio" meaning "knowing in the fullest sense of the word" and the Greek word "logos" meaning "study of."

Scientology is the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, others and all of life. The religion comprises a body of knowledge extending from certain fundamental truths. Prime among these:

Man is an immortal, spiritual being. His experience extends well beyond a single lifetime. His capabilities are unlimited, even if not presently realized — and those capabilities can be realized. He is able to not only solve his own problems, accomplish his goals and gain lasting happiness, but also achieve new, higher states of awareness and ability.

In Scientology no one is asked to accept anything as belief or on faith. That which is true for you is what you have observed to be true. An individual discovers for himself that Scientology works by personally applying its principles and observing or experiencing results.

Through Scientology, people all over the world are achieving the long-sought goal of true spiritual release and freedom.

The Parts of Man

Man consists of three parts. The first of these is the spirit, called in Scientology the thetan (from the Greek letter theta, meaning "thought" or "spirit"), which is the individual himself.

The second of these parts is the mind. The thetan uses his mind as a communication and control system between himself and his environment.

The third of these parts is the body. The body is not the person.

The most important of the three parts of man is the thetan, which is the spirit, or you.

The Dynamics of Existence

The basic command followed by all life, "Survive!" is subdivided into eight dynamics (dynamic meaning urge, drive or impulse). All activities in one's varied life can be inspected, understood and harmonized with all others to increase survival.

8th Dynamic INFINITY, also commonly called God, the Supreme Being or Creator.

7th Dynamic SPIRITUAL dynamic — anything spiritual with or without identity, life source.

6th Dynamic PHYSICAL UNIVERSE with its four components of matter, energy, space and time.

5th Dynamic LIFE FORMS including all plant and animal life.

4th Dynamic MANKIND as a species.

3rd Dynamic GROUP SURVIVAL whether friends, a club, company, nation or race.

2nd Dynamic FAMILY and children and all other creativity.

1st Dynamic SELF — the individual, including his body, mind and immediate possessions.

Through Scientology, a person realizes that his life and influence extend far beyond himself. By understanding each of these dynamics and their relationship, one to the other, he is able to do so, and thus increase survival on all of these dynamics.

ARC Triangle and Tone Scale

A principle of considerable importance in Scientology, and one that greatly assists interpersonal relationships, is that of affinity, reality and communication. The three form an interdependent triangle and add up to understanding.

The Tone Scale

The Tone Scale is a tool used in everyday life to understand what is occurring with individuals and how best to communicate with them. One can find himself or any individual on the Tone Scale and thus know how, using Scientology, he may best be moved up to the higher tones — and thus increased competence, self-esteem, honesty, well-being, happiness and other desirable attributes.

40.0 Serenity of Beingness	2.4 Monotony	0.94 Numb
30.0 Postulates	2.0 Antagonism	0.9 Sympathy
22.0 Games	1.9 Hostility	0.8 Propitiation
20.0 Action	1.8 Pain	0.5 Grief
8.0 Exhilaration	1.5 Anger	0.375 Making Amends
6.0 Aesthetics	1.4 Hate	0.3 Undeserving
4.0 Enthusiasm	1.3 Resentment	0.2 Self-Abasement
3.5 Cheerfulness	1.2 No Sympathy	0.1 Victim
3.3 Strong Interest	1.15 Unexpressed Resentment	0.07 Hopeless
3.0 Conservatism	1.1 Covert Hostility	0.05 Apathy
2.9 Mild Interest	1.02 Anxiety	0.03 Useless
2.8 Contented	1.0 Fear	0.01 Dying
2.6 Disinterested	0.98 Despair	0.0 Body Death
2.5 Boredom	0.96 Terror	

The Effects of Drugs and Chemicals

We live in a chemical-oriented society. The past century's technological advances have produced many damaging by-products that threaten well-being — from the smog in the air we breathe to the thousands of chemical additives in the food we eat. Moreover, the use of street drugs has proliferated since the mid-20th century at all levels of society, as well as prescription of mind and mood-altering drugs.

Drugs, pollutants and other chemicals are essentially poisons and take their toll on a person's body by depleting its stores of vitamins and minerals, leading to susceptibility to other health problems.

Quite in addition to physiological damage, drugs and toxins decrease mental alertness and perception and can contribute to many undesirable states, from unfeeling to hostile. This biochemical factor is a barrier to spiritual freedom.

The Solution

L. Ron Hubbard discovered that drug and chemical residues are stored and trapped in the fatty tissues of the body and remain long after a person has been off drugs. As long as the person has these residues in his body, his awareness, abilities and attitudes can remain suppressed, adversely affecting his ability to succeed to his full potential in life.

The Purification Rundown includes exercise to dislodge toxic residues.

Followed immediately by sweating in a sauna, these toxins are flushed from the system. Mega-vitamin and mineral dosages and extra oil are vital factors in helping to repair the body.

Good nutrition and adequate rest are vital to the success of the program.

The Auditing Session

The primary way that Scientology's principles are applied to an individual is called auditing — from the Latin word "audire," meaning "to listen."

It is the central practice of Scientology, and is delivered by an auditor, "one who listens."

In an auditing session, the auditor helps another examine specific areas of their existence so they can rid themselves of unwanted spiritual conditions and increase awareness and ability.

The E-Meter® pastoral counseling device

The Electropsychometer, or E-Meter measures the mental state or change of state of a person, helping the auditor locate areas of spiritual distress or travail so they can be addressed and handled in a session. The E-Meter does not in itself do anything to a person. It is a highly sensitive instrument that reacts to changes in mental activity.

The States of Existence

Man is so visibly MAN that he overlooked in most of his philosophies and all of his sciences that there is more than one state of existence attainable by man. There are many states of existence besides that of man. This has been touched on by earlier philosophies. What is new about Scientology is that one being can attain several different states of existence in just one lifetime. Some savants amongst the Himalayas have worked in this direction. Gautama Siddhartha (Buddha) spoke of it. Fifteen or twenty years of hard work were said to result in a nebulous conclusion. With Scientology, there are no such uncertainties. These higher states can be attained through Dianetics and Scientology auditing.

Communication

We instinctively revere the great artist, painter or musician and society as a whole looks upon them as not quite ordinary beings. And they are not. They are a cut above man. He who can truly communicate to others is a higher being who builds new worlds.

Problems

What distinguishes civilized man as MAN is that he is mired into PROBLEMS which just get worse the more he "solves" them. The being who can recognize the actual source of problems and so see them vanish is too rare to be easily comprehended. When a being can do this — make problems vanish with a glance — he certainly is no longer "man."

Relief

Man has never known, except in some of the rare miracle workers he regarded as saints, how to bring relief to various ills. The secret was that one is connecting oneself to what he abhors. To be able to easily bring relief to oneself and others from the hostilities and sufferings of life is a skill man has seen only in healers.

Freedom

Man is chained to the upsets in his past. He has never understood why he felt so upset and misunderstood about his family or people or situations. Most men dwell perpetually on troubles they have had. They lead sad lives. Freedom from the upsets of the past with the ability to face the future is almost an unknown condition to man.

Ability

Man's abilities tend to be individually specialized. He is so intent upon some action that he is clumsy in performing others. When one moves out of fixed conditions, he can experience a huge resurgence in the ability to choose, partake in and enjoy new activities.

Power

Man can seldom handle POWER. He retreats from it or abuses it. When he has it he often misdirects it. One can, in Scientology, acquire the ability to stably handle power.

Clear

Here is a being who has forever vanquished his own reactive mind, the source of man's misery. He has a very high degree of personal integrity and honesty, and is a living proof that man is basically good. His own basic beingness returns and his own personality flourishes.

Operating Thetan

By "operating" is meant "able to act and handle things" and by "thetan" is meant the spiritual being that is the basic self. "Theta" is Greek for thought or life or the spirit. An Operating Thetan then is one who can handle things without having to use a body of physical means. Basically one is oneself, can handle things and exist without physical support and assistance. It doesn't mean one becomes God. It means one becomes wholly oneself.

The Aims of Scientology

A civilization without insanity, without criminals and without war, where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights, and where man is free to rise to greater heights, are the aims of Scientology.

First announced to an enturbulated world in 1950, these aims are well within the grasp of our technology.

Nonpolitical in nature, Scientology welcomes any individual of any creed, race or nation.

We seek no revolution. We seek only evolution to higher states of being for the individual and for society. We are achieving our aims.

After endless millennia of ignorance about himself, his mind and the universe, a breakthrough has been made for man.

Other efforts man has made have been surpassed.

The combined truths of fifty thousand years of thinking men, distilled and amplified by new discoveries about man, have made for this success.

We welcome you to Scientology. We only expect of you your help in achieving our aims and helping others. We expect you to be helped.

Scientology is the most vital movement on Earth today.

In a turbulent world, the job is not easy. But then, if it were, we wouldn't have to be doing it.

We respect man and believe he is worthy of help. We respect you and believe you, too, can help.

Scientology does not owe its help. We have done nothing to cause us to propitiate. Had we done so, we would not now be bright enough to do what we are doing.

Man suspects all offers of help. He has often been betrayed, his confidence shattered. Too frequently he has given his trust and been betrayed. We may err, for we build a world with broken straws. But we will never betray your faith in us so long as you are one of us.

The sun never sets on Scientology.

And may a new day dawn for you, for those you love and for man.

Our aims are simple, if great.

And we will succeed, and are succeeding at each new revolution of the Earth.

Your help is acceptable to us.

Our help is yours.

L. Ron Hubbard

Church of Scientology
An Evaluation from the Theological Perspective of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
August, 2005
(updated May 2014)

History, Beliefs, and Practices

Identity:

The Church of Scientology is a new religious movement created by L. Ron Hubbard who drew from psychological theories (called “Dianetics”) and a mixture of ideas developed from Eastern religious philosophies.¹ Scientology calls itself “a religious philosophy in its highest meaning.”² The Scientology religion promises “workable answers to the problems people face in their lives”: “It is concerned with nothing less than the full rehabilitation of the thetan (see below), to increase spiritual awareness, native capabilities and certainty of his own immortality.” Scientology claims that its axioms define “the underlying causes and principles of reality as we know it, and thus unlock the very riddle of existence.”³ According to L. Ron Hubbard, “Scientology has accomplished the goal of religion expressed in Man’s written history, the freeing of the soul with wisdom.”⁴

Founder:

Lafayette Ronald (L. Ron) Hubbard (1911-86)

Statistics:

Estimates of the number of members and adherents vary widely. One estimate: 5-6 million Worldwide

History:

Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, born in Tilden, Nebraska in 1911, was the founder of Scientology. While the details of Hubbard’s life have been in dispute, it is claimed that he traveled widely during his youth (his father a career Navy man), acquainting himself with Beijing magicians, Tibetan lamas, Mongolian bandits, Pygmy hunters and shamans from Borneo. He returned to the U.S. in 1929, completed his education, and was accepted as a student of mathematics and engineering at George Washington University (though he never graduated). He claimed to have learned psychoanalysis from a student of Sigmund Freud. Hubbard left the university unsatisfied with psychologists’ understandings of the human mind and pursued independent research. It is reported that he suffered injuries in WWII, leaving him partially blind and crippled. He claimed that he regained his health through findings about the human mind. In 1950 Hubbard published *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* (still regarded as an introduction to Scientology and used widely by Scientologists).

¹*What Is Scientology?* (Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, Inc., 1992), 7-82.

²*A Description of the Scientology Religion*, Presented by The Church of Scientology (Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1994), 57.

³*Ibid.*, 36, 39.

⁴L. Ron Hubbard, *The Creation of Human Ability* (Los Angeles: The Publications Organization Worldwide, 1968), 177.

Hubbard founded the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International (HASI) and late in 1950 the Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation. He wrote prolifically, including science fiction (bestseller in 1981 *Battlefield Earth*). In August 1952 the *Journal of Scientology* was published introducing techniques of auditing (see below). First Church of Scientology was established in Los Angeles in 1954. It expanded into other countries as well. Hubbard formed the *Founding Church of Scientology* in July 1955 and then the first Academy of Scientology. Toward the end of his life Hubbard lived in seclusion, dying of a stroke in Creston, California in January 1986.

Today the Church of Scientology is led by David Miscavige. It has its headquarters in Los Angeles, California, and a religious retreat in Clearwater, Florida, called Flag Land Base.

Texts:

Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health

Other writings by Hubbard

Periodicals: *Advance!*; *Source*; *The Auditor*; *Celebrity*; *International Scientology News*

Beliefs and Practices:

Scientology is a combination of L. Ron Hubbard's theory of psychotherapy called Dianetics⁵ and a religious philosophy. *Dianetics* is Scientology's teaching that the human mind has two components: the Analytical and Reactive minds. The Analytical mind is the mind that one consciously utilizes; it analyzes, calculates, and distinguishes. The Reactive mind is irrational; operating unconsciously to record impressions during emotional and physical pain. The Analytical mind shuts down and the Reactive mind takes over, storing unpleasant memories that later cause pain, irrational fears, and mental blocks.⁶ Recordings of perceptions in the Reactive mind are called *engrams*. Human potential is unattained because of undeleted engrams. A method or process called *auditing* (form of counseling) allows one to explore and erase engrams. An auditor ("one who listens"; considered a minister) conducts auditing sessions and listens to the "*preclear*," the person receiving the auditing. Auditing involves the use of the *E-meter* (electropsychometer) invented by Hubbard and said to measure energy of the mind created when an engram is "pictured." The preclear focuses on the engram with the help of a "process question" from the auditor. The objective is to free a Preclear of engrams, letting the Analytical mind function without the effects of the Reactive mind and its engrams. Persons who have gotten rid of their engrams are called *Clear*.⁷

Scientologists do not regard Dianetics itself as a religion, but they do regard Scientology as one. Scientologists define Scientology as "knowing about knowing."⁸ Hubbard taught that man is actually neither a mind nor a body, but a soul, that is, a spiritual being. The being or personality, separate from the body and mind, is called a "thetan."⁹ All humans are thetans or immortal spiritual entities

⁵Dianetics ("through thought" or "through the soul") is defined by Scientology as "what the soul is doing to the body through the mind." *Description*, 70.

⁶*Description*, 70.

⁷Scientologists believe toxins in the body hinder one from becoming clear, encouraging a course that clears out the toxins. They are opposed to the use of drugs to control psychiatric conditions. Drugs, they maintain, treat the self as a physical entity, rather than spiritual. Christopher Partridge, ed. *New Religions: A Guide* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), 386.

⁸*Ibid.*, 36.

⁹"You are an immortal spiritual being...you are called a *thetan* (from the Greek letter *theta*, for thought or life or the spirit)...The thetan *is* the spiritual being himself. It is the individual. It is *you*." *Description*, 57.

who are basically good and possess virtually infinite powers.¹⁰ Thetan is the backbone of creation and life. “In Scientology terminology, a highly aware thetan who has the ability to handle the affairs of life in this exterior state is called an Operating Thetan. The thetan has lived and can continue to live through a series of lifetimes.”¹¹ Access to operating Thetan literature is restricted to scientology adherents.¹²

Beyond being “clear,” individuals can progress up the “bridge of total freedom,” freedom from the constraints of the material (called *MEST*—Matter, Energy, Space, and Time). “Scientologists who progress up the OT (Operating Thetan) Bridge¹³ may ‘know...immortality and freedom from the cycle of birth and death,’ according to ‘The State of Operating Thetan,’ a Church document.”¹⁴ Scientology also speaks of “Eight Dynamics” that transcend throughout all of nature and beyond and pertain to survival: Self, Creativity, Group Survival, Species, Life Forms, Physical Universe, Spiritual Dynamic and Infinity.

In a 1993 article on Scientology, Christian apologist John Weldon, providing extensive documentation, summarized what appear to be Scientology’s theological views regarding God, Man, Creation, Salvation, and Death.¹⁵ “The Supreme Being” is purposefully left undefined, though the concept appears panentheistic.¹⁶ Man is not morally fallen, but is basically good and divine; the universe is a subjective emanation or “projection” of the thetans, having merely an agreed-upon (and not actual) reality; salvation is achieving a state of “clear,” progressing through numerous levels of “Operating Thetan,” and finally achieving self-realization (spiritual freedom). Death is sometimes a blessing permitting the release of the soul from the body, but is finally inconsequential, passed through trillions of times by each person.

Scientology has the following organizational entities:

IHELP: basic level Scientology; *SMI*: Scientology Mission International, a mission effort to provide primary Dianetic and Scientology services; *CHURCHES*: organizations providing religious services (services include a reading of the Scientology creed, a sermon based on Hubbard’s writings, group auditing, and prayer) and administering courses; *Celebrity Centres*: provide services for artists (associated with Scientology are: Karen Black, Priscilla Presley, Kirstie Allie, Lou Rawls, Isaac Hayes, John Travolta, Tom Cruise; Chick Corea, and Stanley Clarke);¹⁷ *Organizations and Advanced*

¹⁰“Your capabilities are unlimited, even if not presently realized...Man is basically good.” *Description*, 57. “...the thetan is ...capable of accomplishing *anything*. Thus the Operating Thetan, or OT, may be defined as one who is at ‘knowing and willing cause over life, thought, matter, energy, space and time.’” *Description*, 79.

¹¹J. Gordon Melton, *Encyclopedia of American Religions* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1999), 723.

¹²*New Religions: A Guide* (Oxford University Press, 2004), 386-87, notes this about “body thetans”: “From official Scientology literature...it seems likely OT material relates to ‘body thetans’—the remains of thetans who lost their bodies many millions of years ago as a result of a gargantuan explosion. These beings, devoid of physical bodies, continue to latch on to the physical bodies of others, and it is incumbent on those who progress through OT levels to help to release them from this situation.”

¹³Referred to as “a route across the chasm between his present state and higher levels of awareness...greater ability and total freedom” (*Description*, 80). This “Bridge,” called “The Bridge to Total Freedom” is charted in *Description*, 80.

¹⁴See <http://web.archive.org/web/20060907005952/http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/relmove>

¹⁵The summary that follows is taken from John Weldon, “Scientology: From Science Fiction to Space-Age Religion,” *Christian Research Journal* (Summer 1993), 23, 32-33.

¹⁶A term coined by K.C.F. Krause (1781-1832) for the view that God is in all things. This view also sees the world and God as mutually dependent for their fulfillment. It differs from “pantheism,” which views God as all and all as God. (Donald K. McKim, *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, 199.)

¹⁷Walter Martin, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, Hank Hanegraaff, General Editor (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997 edition), 379.

Organizations: basic auditing and upper level courses; *Flag Service Organization*: religious services and upper level courses; for advanced Scientologists; retreat center, Clearwater, FL; *Church of Scientology International*: management; *Religious Technology Center*: ensures doctrine is taught truthfully and in keeping with Hubbard's intention; guards Sacred texts and symbols; *Other*: Narconon, Criminon, WISE (World Institute of Scientology Enterprise), CCHR (Citizen's Commission on Human Rights); Cult Awareness Reform Group.

A Lutheran Response

Evaluating Scientology from a Christian perspective is complicated by the extremely esoteric nature of the concepts and religious vocabulary developed by L. Ron Hubbard.¹⁸ Typical of organizations and movements such as Scientology, biblically-sounding concepts have radically different meanings that actually oppose Christian understandings—a situation of which recruits are often unaware. At a very basic level, Lutheran Christians differ sharply with Scientology's understanding of what constitutes the normative basis for religious truth. A Scientology spokesperson has written, "Mr. Hubbard's writings and lectures on the human spirit comprise the Scripture of Scientology religion...As the sole source of the Scriptures, he has no successor."¹⁹ Lutherans reject such claims on the basis of the Bible's own testimony that it alone is God's very own Word, solely normative for all teaching and profitable for man's temporal and eternal well-being (e.g., 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16; Jer. 23:30-31).

Certain elements of Scientology's religious philosophy merit special comment from a Christian perspective. Christian observers have rightly noted that the concept of "God" in Scientology is undefined, and purposefully so—though it does claim to be a religion that recognizes a "Supreme Being." Expressions such as "the Eighth Dynamic," "God dynamic," "infinity," and "all Theta life" are used.²⁰ Scientology frankly admits, "The Church has no dogma concerning God, and each person's concept is probably different."²¹ The Holy Scriptures, however, not only reveal who the true God is—God who is three persons in one divine essence (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), Creator and Preserver of all things visible and invisible—but label as idolatry worship of and service to any other deity (Matt. 28:18-20; John 5:23; see Ex. 20:3; see also Martin Luther, Large Catechism, Part I).

L. Ron Hubbard interpreted Jesus Christ within the Scientologist framework: "Neither Lord Buddha nor Jesus Christ were OT (Operating Thetan), according to the evidence. They were just a shade above clear."²² He refers to Christ as an "implant" (a false concept forced on a Thetan): "You will find...the Christ legend as an implant in pre-clears a million years ago."²³ Christian belief in Jesus the Christ is determined by the high Christology (teaching concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ) presented in Colossians 1: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible..." (15-16). Christ is not simply a "spiritual leader" possessing a "dream" of

¹⁸See Robert A. Gilbert, "Western Esotericism," in *New Religions: A Guide*, 304-308.

¹⁹Leisa Goodman, *L. Ron Hubbard, Founder of Dianetics and Scientology*, 1, quoted by Craig Branch, "Scientology Part One: Hubbard's Religion," *Watchman Expositor*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 1996, 10.

²⁰*The Scientology Handbook, Based on the Works of L. Ron Hubbard* (Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, 1994), 69.

²¹It adds: "As a person becomes more aware of himself, others, the environment and God, each person attains his own certainty as to who God is and exactly what God means to him. The author of the universe exists. How God is symbolized or manifested is up to each individual to find out for himself." *What Is Scientology?* 545.

²²Quoted in Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, 383.

²³Quoted by Kevin Anderson, *Report of the Board of Inquiry into Scientology* (Melbourne: Australia Parliament Government Printer, 1965), 150 (W. Martin, p. 383).

“higher states of spiritual awareness” like other religious leaders in history.²⁴ On the contrary, in Jesus Christ “all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (Col. 1:19), “in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9), and His name is “above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-10).

For Scientology “salvation” appears to be fundamentally a matter of spiritual enlightenment: achieving a state of “clear” and progressing upwards through levels of “Operating Thetan,” until one achieves “total freedom and truth” or self-realization (a process extending beyond a single lifetime).²⁵ Man (spiritual being or thetan) is “basically good,” but ignorant of perfection. He is in need only of freedom from entrapment in MEST (matter, energy, space, time). The Bible teaches that human beings are corrupted by sin (matter in itself is not evil, but God’s good creation) and incapable of achieving saving knowledge, freeing themselves from sin’s bondage, or meriting God’s favor (Eph. 2:1-2; Rom. 8:8; Ps. 51:5). The Bible’s central message is that salvation comes *from above* (not from below through counseling or educational processes). Salvation has come through the saving action of the transcendent God in history, through the sending of His only Son in the flesh and His atoning sacrifice for sin—the benefits of which become ours through faith in Jesus, whom God raised from the dead (Eph. 1:20-21; 2:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-21). In the Bible Christ’s resurrection guarantees the resurrection of the body for those in whom His Holy Spirit dwells—a day toward which the entire creation yearns. Such is the true freedom for which Christians long (Rom. 8:11, 18-25). Christ alone sets man free, body and soul, from the bondage of sin and death.

For Further Reading

A Description of the Scientology Religion, Presented by The Church of Scientology International. Los Angeles: Bridge Publications, Inc., 1994.

Behar, Richard. “The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power.” *Time*, May 6, 1991, 50-57.

Hubbard, L. Ronald. *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. Los Angeles: Publications Organization, 1972.

Larson, Bob. *Larson’s Book of Cults*. Wheaton: Tyndale, 1982, 312-315.

Marrs, Texe. *New Age Cults and Religions*. Austin: Living Truth Publishers, 1990, 286-290.

Mather, George and Larry Nichols. *Dictionary of Cults, Sects, Religions and the Occult*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993, 251-53.

Melton, J. Gordon. *Encyclopedia of American Religions*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1999, 722-24.

Tucker, Ruth A. *Another Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Academie (Zondervan), 1989, 299-318.

Weldon, John. “Scientology: From Science Fiction to Space-Age Religion.” *Christian Research Journal*, Summer 1993, 20-23; 32-36.

Links and Websites

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060907005952/http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/re/move>

<http://www.scientology.org>

<http://www.watchman.org/scienta.htm>

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/Library/Shelf/la90/la90-0.html>

²⁴*Description*, 55.

²⁵*The Scientology Handbook*, i.

A Scientologist Explains Scientology (from an Internet discussion board ca. 2008)

Here's a description of the religion and some information about the donation system of the church:

Scientology is an applied religious philosophy. When I say "applied" I mean you actually use it in your life to change or improve existing conditions. It is a very practical religion. All religions if you learn about them have a basic philosophy, but they also have certain dogma, rituals and observances, and a certain faith or belief is required. There is nothing wrong with this, but Scientology is not that kind of religion. It does not intrude on anyone's faiths or beliefs in the area of God, the Supreme Being, or the Infinite. This area is left totally up to the individual as part of his life. It does not conflict.

It is also not a messianic religion. This means there is no worship of prophets or messiahs in Scientology. It is not faith based. A truth should be true according to one's own observation and experience....

The most basic principle of Scientology is that YOU are your own immortal soul, that this is not a "thing" you HAVE but what YOU actually are.

The whole purpose of Scientology is to increase an individual's understanding and awareness of himself and life, and to rehabilitate his native goodness, abilities and potential. When you do this the sphere and zone of his positive influence increases and moves outward into his life, his family, his friends, his groups and mankind which he is part of.

How this result is achieved is the "technology" of Scientology, which was developed by L. Ron Hubbard after his extensive research and the discoveries he made, about the human spirit. The basic religious philosophy and knowledge of Scientology is very old, going back 10,000 years at least to the Veda or Vedic Hymns from the East. L. Ron Hubbard researched and made new discoveries about the human spirit. He developed technology from these discoveries to apply to increase spiritual awareness and ability.

He completed his research before his death in 1986 and left all of his results and copyrights to the Church of Scientology along with most of his considerable personal estate, when he died. He published a book in 1951 to communicate the basic principles he discovered called: "Scientology The Fundamentals of Thought". There are currently over 10 million Scientologists in more than 163 countries worldwide. However, we are a new religion, only 53 years old.

The true story of Scientology as a religion goes like this:

1. A philosopher develops a philosophy about life and death.
2. People find it interesting.
3. People find it works.
4. People pass it along to others.
5. It grows.

This is just an overview.

L. Ron Hubbard explained fully the theology and technologies of Scientology in more than 500,000 pages of writings, including dozens of books and over 2,000 tape-recorded public lectures.

It is true that Scientology has various fixed donations for its services. The amount depends only on the cost to deliver them and support the specific Church or Mission that is doing so.

The reason for this unusual financial set up for a Church is that Scientology is a new religion, only 53 years old. It does not have hundreds of years of accumulated wealth and property like other religions. It must operate and establish itself in the world according to the economics of today's society. It selected the donation system it has as its primary method of funding itself because it is the most equitable (fair) method.

Those who want the training and individual spiritual counselling should be the ones who contribute most to maintain the facilities that provide it.

There are lots of free services and introductory services available, also books , CD's of lectures and DVD's which cost very little.

--- thetalways

Xenu (from Wikipedia)

Xenu, also called Xemu, was, according to Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, the dictator of the "Galactic Confederacy" who 75 million years ago brought billions of his people to Earth in DC-8-like spacecraft, stacked them around volcanoes, and killed them with hydrogen bombs. Official Scientology scriptures hold that the thetans (immortal spirits) of these aliens adhere to humans, causing spiritual harm.

The story of Xenu is covered in OT III, part of Scientology's secret "Advanced Technology" doctrines taught only to advanced members who have undergone many hours of auditing and reached the state of Clear followed by Operating Thetan levels 1 and 2. It is described in more detail in the accompanying confidential "Assists" lecture of October 3, 1968, and is dramatized in *Revolt in the Stars* (a screen-story – in the form of a novel – written by L. Ron Hubbard in 1977).

Hubbard wrote that Xenu was the ruler of a Galactic Confederacy 75 million years ago, which consisted of 26 stars and 76 planets including Earth, which was then known as "Teegeeeack". The planets were overpopulated, containing an average population of 178 billion. The Galactic Confederacy's civilization was comparable to our own, with aliens "walking around in clothes which looked very remarkably like the clothes they wear this very minute" and using cars, trains and boats looking exactly the same as those "circa 1950, 1960" on Earth.

Xenu was about to be deposed from power, so he devised a plot to eliminate the excess population from his dominions. With the assistance of psychiatrists, he gathered billions of his citizens under the pretense of income tax inspections, then paralyzed them and froze them in a mixture of alcohol and glycol to capture their souls. The kidnapped populace was loaded into spacecraft for transport to the site of extermination, the planet of Teegeeeack (Earth). The appearance of these spacecraft would later be subconsciously expressed in the design of the Douglas DC-8, the only difference being that "the DC8 had fans, propellers on it and the space plane didn't". When they had reached Teegeeeack, the paralyzed citizens were unloaded around the bases of volcanoes across the planet. Hydrogen bombs were then lowered into the volcanoes and detonated simultaneously, killing all but a few aliens. Hubbard described the scene in his film script, *Revolt in the Stars*:

Simultaneously, the planted charges erupted. Atomic blasts ballooned from the craters of Loa, Vesuvius, Shasta, Washington, Fujiyama, Etna, and many, many others. Arching higher and higher, up and outwards, towering clouds mushroomed, shot through with flashes of flame, waste and fission. Great winds raced tumultuously across the face of Earth, spreading tales of destruction ...

— L. Ron Hubbard, *Revolt in the Stars*

The now-disembodied victims' souls, which Hubbard called thetans, were blown into the air by the blast. They were captured by Xenu's forces using an "electronic ribbon" ("which also was a type of standing wave") and sucked into "vacuum zones" around the world. The hundreds of billions of captured thetans were taken to a type of cinema, where they were forced to watch a "three-D, super colossal motion picture" for thirty-six days. This implanted what Hubbard termed "various misleading data" (collectively termed the R6 implant) into the memories of the hapless thetans, "which has to do

with God, the Devil, space opera, etcetera". This included all world religions; Hubbard specifically attributed Roman Catholicism and the image of the Crucifixion to the influence of Xenu. The two "implant stations" cited by Hubbard were said to have been located on Hawaii and Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

In addition to implanting new beliefs in the thetans, the images deprived them of their sense of personal identity. When the thetans left the projection areas, they started to cluster together in groups of a few thousand, having lost the ability to differentiate between each other. Each cluster of thetans gathered into one of the few remaining bodies that survived the explosion. These became what are known as body thetans, which are said to be still clinging to and adversely affecting everyone except Scientologists who have performed the necessary steps to remove them.

A government faction known as the Loyal Officers finally overthrew Xenu and his renegades, and locked him away in "an electronic mountain trap" from which he has not escaped. Although the location of Xenu is sometimes said to be the Pyrenees on Earth, this is actually the location Hubbard gave elsewhere for an ancient "Martian report station". Teegeeeack was subsequently abandoned by the Galactic Confederacy and remains a pariah "prison planet" to this day, although it has suffered repeatedly from incursions by alien "Invader Forces" since that time.

In 1988, the cost of learning these secrets from the Church of Scientology was \$6,500. This is in addition to the cost of the prior courses which are necessary to be eligible for OT III, which is often well over \$100,000. Belief in Xenu and body thetans is a requirement for a Scientologist to progress further along the Bridge to Total Freedom. Those who do not experience the benefits of the OT III course are expected to take it and pay for it again.

Scientology's Language

In that Scientology was founded by a sci-fi writer, it's no surprise that it has a peculiar jargon. As we've discussed, all religions have their own symbols and language, Scientology's particular cocktail of terminology is brewed from psychology, technology, and philosophy, and can be particularly difficult to understand, and at times is utterly baffling. From scientology.org and other web sites, here are some commonly used words, phrases, and acronyms:

Auditing

Counseling that "helps an individual look at his own existence and improves his ability to confront what he is and where he is." The auditor uses an "E-meter", a device that measures the subject's reaction to questions, helping the auditor locate areas of distress. From the Latin, *audire*, to hear or listen.

Blow

To leave suddenly; in particular a staffer who leaves the Sea Org without following procedure.

COB

Often a reference to David Miscavige, Chairman of the Board for the Religious Technology Center, the trademark-holding body of Scientology. He has been the leader of Scientology since 1987.

Conditions

A set of formulas to be applied to one's life. If you're doing well, you would apply the steps in the condition of "affluence". If you've done something bad, the group might require you to do a "treason" condition. The conditions, from worst to best, are: Confusion, Treason, Enemy, Doubt, Liability, Non-Existence, Danger, Emergency, Normal, Affluence, Power Change and Power. The lower conditions (those below "normal") are often used as punishment.

Counter intention

Resistance to authority, disobedience. Often refers to refusal to do as ordered.

Covert Data Collection/CDC

Information gathered undercover, via informant, private investigator, surveillance.

Dead agent

To undermine the credibility of a church critic, often by thoroughly disproving or claiming to disprove something they have said.

Disconnection

A policy that prohibits family and friends from communicating or associating with anyone the church considers a suppressive person or enemy.

DM

Another common reference to David Miscavige.

E-meter, Electropsychometer

The device auditors use to help identify areas of spiritual distress. The device does not diagnose or cure anything; it helps identify areas that need to be addressed.

Knowledge Report

A write-up of a Scientologist's destructive or off-policy actions. Staff — even husbands and wives — are to report each other's transgressions, or they are an accessory to the same misdeed. L. Ron Hubbard said groups flourish only when members discipline themselves; they should report when members let down the group.

List One

A list of questions an auditor asks about L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology, auditing and more.

Natter

Make snide comments or hyper-critical remarks.

ODC

Overt Data Collection. Information gathered from the public record.

OSA

Office of Special Affairs. The church intelligence unit; also handles legal and media matters.

Out-ethics

When an individual acts contrary to the group's best interest or contrary to the group's mores.

Overt

A sin or a crime. An act against the agreed-upon moral code of a group. An overt can be intentional or unintentional.

O/Ws

Overts and Withholds. Your sins and secrets.

Pig's berthing

Nickname for substandard housing for those who wanted to leave the Sea Org.

Rock slam

The crazy, irregular left and right slashing motion of an E-meter needle. It means the subject being audited has a hidden evil intention.

Route out

To leave the Sea Org the proper way, following protocol.

RPF

Rehabilitation Project Force. Scientology describes this as a "second chance" program that offers Sea Org members who have committed offenses "redemption rather than dismissal." Some former church members say it's hard labor that's used to break the will of a malcontent.

Sea Org

Sea Organization, a religious order for people who have dedicated their lives to service of Scientology. They are paid \$75 a week plus meals, lodging and medical care. Sea Org members sign a billion-year contract, to symbolize their commitment to serve in this life and the next ones. The Sea Org was developed when Scientology was based mostly on ships, hence the name and the maritime ranks.

Security check

A confessional given while on the E-meter. The goal is to discover if the person has done something or has intentions to harm the group.

Security particle

Someone who tried to run or poses a security risk to the church. He is considered infectious.

SP

Suppressive Person. An evil person. If someone is found to be an SP, he or she is "declared," meaning he cannot have any contact with any Scientologist whatsoever. An SP "...works to upset, continuously undermine, spread bad news and denigrate other people and their activities." The tag is often placed on those the church says have spoken ill of Scientology.

SRA

Severe Reality Adjustment. Screaming into someone's face, often by a superior, to get the person to do what you want.

Whole track

"The moment to moment record of a person's existence in this universe in picture and impression form."

Withhold

A destructive thought or something you've done wrong that you haven't told anyone about.

Wog

A non-Scientologist, a run-of-the- mill human.