

**WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?**  
**#6: Who Do the Scientologists Say That He Is?**  
**July 29-31, 2006**

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!  
*Galatians 2:20-21 TNIV*

Introduction: Examining what other religious groups profess about Jesus Christ can help us understand better what we believe about him. Scientologists believe that they can achieve freedom and salvation by erasing negativity from their souls. We know that we are forgiven of sin through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

I. The Basics of Scientology

- A. Founded by science fiction writer and retired naval officer Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (1911-1986) and his followers in the 1950's in Los Angeles, CA, and Washington, DC.
- B. In the 1940's, Hubbard had declared, "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."
- C. Hubbard claimed that man is a fundamentally spiritual being, or "thetan" (soul), which he called "the X-factor."
- D. The central practice of Scientology is a form of regression therapy called "dianetics," the purpose of which is to uncover and erase memories from present and prior lives of physically and psychologically disturbing events, or "engrams," in order to become "clear."
- E. Hubbard taught that these engrams were unconsciously stored in the "reactive mind," as opposed to the conscious "analytical mind."
- F. Like Buddhists, Scientologists reject the notion of an eternal existence in heaven or hell, advocating instead a cycle of reincarnation from which one can be delivered through personal salvation in any one lifetime (i.e., becoming clear).
- G. Scientologists believe there is a God, but that God cannot be known and is now immaterial to human existence.
- H. Scientology "clergy" are called auditors, and are trained in the art of using simple lie-detector-like devices called electro-psychometers (e-meters) to detect engrams during counseling, or auditing.
- I. Scientological auditing involves the exploration of eight dynamics (urges and impulses) that Hubbard believed shaped human existence.

- J. The goal of the Scientologist is to cross "The Bridge of Total Freedom" to revive the spiritual individual and escape the material universe.
- K. The "upper teachings" of scientology (secret teachings) are said to contain many "intergalactic" truths, such as that earth is a prison colony filled with beings murdered by an evil galactic overlord named Xenu in an event devoted Scientologists call "Incident 2."
- L. Hubbard himself claimed that his teachings came from "the medicine man of the Goldi people of Manchuria, the shamans of North Borneo, Sioux medicine men, the cults of Los Angeles ... modern psychology (Jung, Adler, Freud, Pavlov), a magician whose ancestors served in the court of Kublai Khan and a Hindu who could hypnotize cats" (among others; *Dianetics*, p. 128).

II. Who Do They Say that Jesus Is?

- A. Hubbard considered Jesus, Buddha, and a host of other religious figures as individuals just above "clear."
- B. Hubbard believed that man invented God, and that there was no "Christ."
- C. Hubbard claimed that Christian faith was part of a false memory implanted by an evil space alien to entrap people.
- D. While Jesus taught "love your enemies," Hubbard taught that "An enemy . . . may be injured by any means, sued or lied to or destroyed."
- E. While Jesus taught "let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no,' Hubbard taught "Tell an acceptable truth."
- F. While Jesus taught his followers not to love mammon, Hubbard taught "MAKE MONEY, MAKE MORE MONEY."
- G. Hubbard claimed that "Christ died for his own sins."

III. Who Do We Say That He Is?

- A. Christians agree with Scientologists that man is essentially a spiritual being, but we believe we are created by God.
- B. Christians profess that humanity is marred by sin, not just scarred by negative memories.
- C. We believe that we are forgiven of sin, remembered and forgotten, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
- D. We believe that we have only one life to live, after which believers in Jesus Christ receive the reward of heaven.

Conclusion: Scientologists practice a synthetic religion that looks a lot like a modern mix of Buddhism, psychology, and science fiction in a search for personal salvation. As followers of Jesus Christ, we live to glorify our Creator and honor his only Son. We know that we cannot save ourselves, nor do we need to!