

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXVII

January 15, 2017

No. 3

## Beware Of Man's Philosophy

(Jerry Fite)

Paul warns Christians, *“Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:8).*

Pursuing knowledge or wisdom to enrich life, what is wrong with that? Beware, Paul says, man's philosophy can capture you as another's spoil, while you personally plunge to eternal ruin. How can I protect myself from this demise? Paul says the standard for testing all knowledge and wisdom is “Christ”. Christians abide in His teaching (2 John 9). His doctrine is the yardstick for determining absolute truth. Remember, there is *“knowledge”* that is *“falsely so called”* because it is not after Christ (1 Timothy 6:20).

The Church of Scientology is a “knowledge” source that certainly appears in the headlights of Paul's warning. “The study of knowledge” is what the church honors in its name. The church was founded by L. Ron Hubbard in 1954 to offer the knowledge that would lead people to unlock their highest potential in all facets of their life. In Hubbard's view, psychiatry, with its emphasis on looking at man as a “body”, was not the way, for man was “spirit”. Mr. Hubbard believed the cure for all the evil man experiences, and the eventual salvation of this planet will be achieved with each individual be-

ing “clear” of all the damage experienced in the past, and collected in the “reactive mind”.

The church of Scientology followed on the heels of L. Ron Hubbard's book entitled *“Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health”*, published May 9, 1950. His book and techniques to cure the spirit's ills immediately spread, fostering a church established worldwide.

Scientologists engage in “auditing” when their reaction to questions directed to them by an auditor is measured by an “E-Meter”. The energy coming through your body pegs the meter indicating matters that need to be addressed and eliminated from one's mind. When Scientologists reach the “clear” state, they become an “Operating Thetan”. By definition, one is now able to act and handle things without having to use a body of physical means. “Thetan” is the word coined by Hubbard, to stand for the soul or spirit of man. To get to OT, one spends hundreds of dollars on reading materials. But the amount escalates as he or she spends thousands to reach the eighth and final stage of “infinity”.

Tom Cruise, a celebrated Scientologist, affirms that one could be a Christian and be a Scientologist. If so, it would be in name only, for Scientology is not “after Christ”. In fact, L. Ron Hubbard does not even include Jesus Christ when listing the influential men in 50,000 years of

man's history, but includes Greek philosopher Anaxagoras, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson and others. The “scriptures” of Scientology are the writings of L. Ron Hubbard, not the Old and New Testament.

Scientology's “Sea Organization”, a group of the church's top members, sign a “billion year” contract for dedicated service. This commits them to Scientology through many lifetimes. Reincarnation is a belief of Scientology which contradicts Christ's teachings. We are appointed *“once to die”*, not die many times over thousands of years (Hebrews 9:27).

Scientology claims to believe in a “Supreme Being”, but it is not the God of the Bible. Listening to those who complete the last stage of “infinity”, we learn the being that is “supreme” is one's “self”, not the God of the Bible. The gift you receive after your long and expensive journey is “you”, not the Lord. Each Scientologist, when finishing level eight does not thank God, but turns to the picture of L. Ron Hubbard and gives him a “hip, hip hurray”.

Scientology is L. Ron Hubbard's philosophy glorifying a science-fiction- imagination, not a teaching that is “after Christ”. Continuing through auditing and training exercises, one might achieve stronger mind control, and a lofty self-image. But one will never glorify Christ, for Christ is not in it.