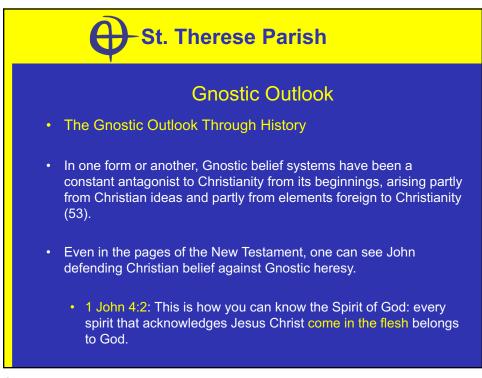
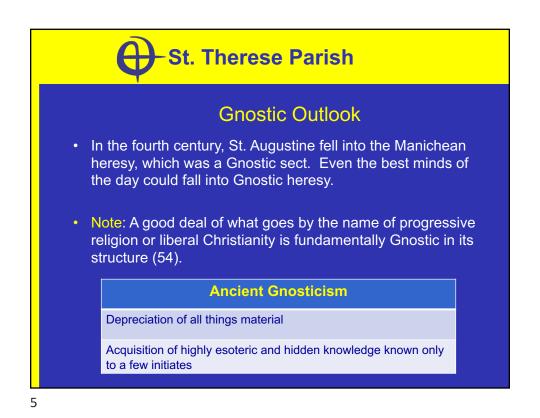
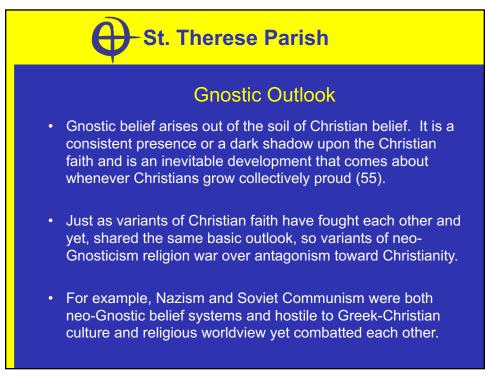


St. Therese Parish		
Overview		
Religion of the Day		
Session I	Introduction and the Religion of the Day	
Session II	Twelve Aspects of Modern Religion (Points 1 - 6)	
Session III	Twelve Aspects of Modern Religion (Points 7 - 12)	
Session IV	Further Notes on Progressive Religion	
Session V	Catching the Diseases of the World	
Session VI	The Winning Stance	
Session VII	Conclusion: The Kingdom, the Tribulation, and the Patient Endurance	

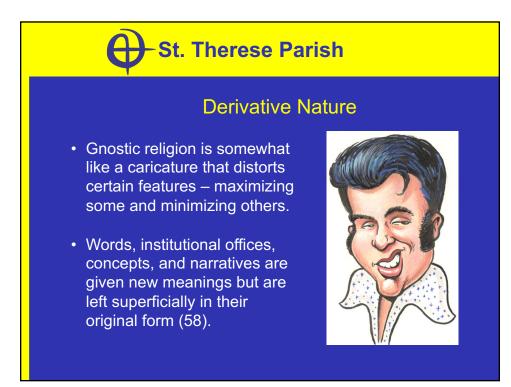
St. Therese Parish			
Overview			
Review			
Quality VII	Salvation comes through human effort alone		
Quality VIII	The application of technique (Gnosis) to bring about salvation		
Quality IX	A dualistic view of history; past dark age and future age of freedom		
Quality X	Two kinds of humans; those embrace new age and those do not		
Quality XI	Revolution as the process by which salvation is achieved		
Quality XII	The necessary failure of modern religion; departs from reality		





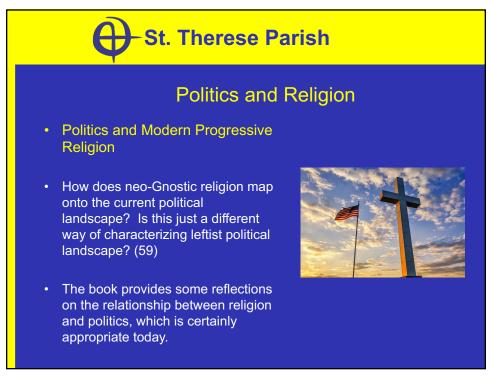






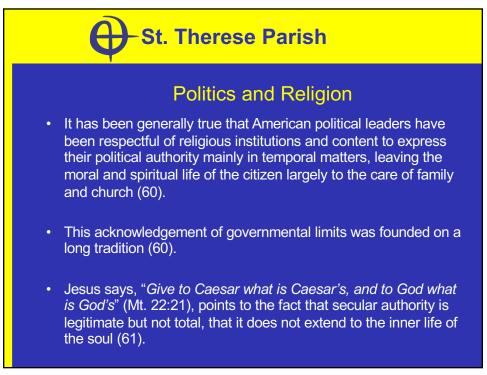
Derivative Nature

- For example, in the Christian narrative, freedom is a gift given from God that one grows in through discipline or a growing in virtue. It is always tied to the good.
- For the Modern Gnostic religion, freedom is the ability to do whatever you want the right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- Gnostic ideas take root subtly within the Church and claim to offer the true meaning of the Christian faith even as they are subverting its foundations (58). Gnostic ideas are like termites that burrow into wood and gut it out from the inside.



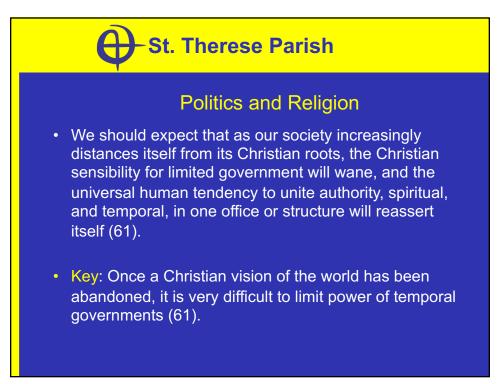
Politics and Religion

- While the idea that politics and religion should be kept separate is commonly accepted, the truth is that they have always been intertwined in important ways.
- The American founders were not attempting to do away with religion; what they wanted to avoid was a confessional state.
- Even the non-believers among founders considered religion a useful means of engendering moral virtues in the populace, without which none of them thought a democratic form of government could long survive (60).

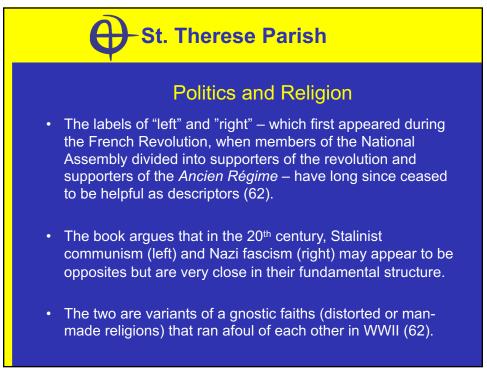


Politics and Religion

- In Christian civilizations, there are two distinct authorities governing human life, a spiritual authority and a temporal authority.
- This dual set of authorities has historically been a source of a good bit of friction through the centuries, but it has been a genuine example of "creative tension."
- For Christians, the political aspect of life is important, but not ultimate (61). In other words, God and His will trump civil law when they conflict. Peter said to the Sanhedrin, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

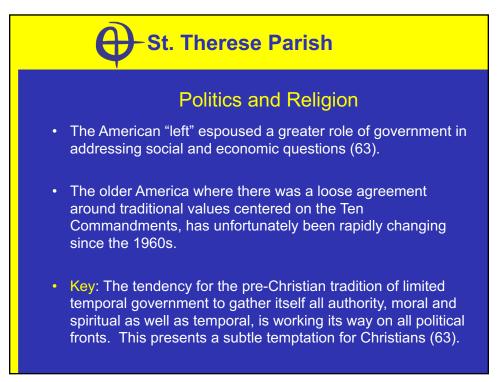






Politics and Religion

- Each of these ideologies was attempting to replace a waning Christianity with a new, all-encompassing vision for the society that promised the perfection of the temporal world (62).
- In America, there hasn't been a strong tradition of either fascist or communist neo-Gnostic faith.
- Throughout the 20th century, the "right" in America was close to the 19th century English liberal tradition, tending to promote freedom of markets and to favor less, rather than more, government regulation (63).



Politics and Religion

- As Christianity wanes in modern culture, there is a movement to collectivize all more, spiritual, and temporal power in one office or structure.
- While Christians must be involved in political affairs, the great temptation is that societal problems can be fixed by recourse to this sphere.

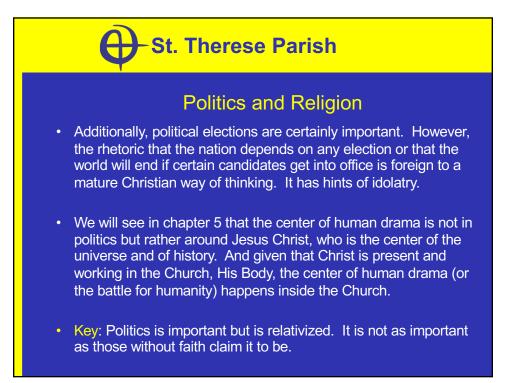
Receding Lake

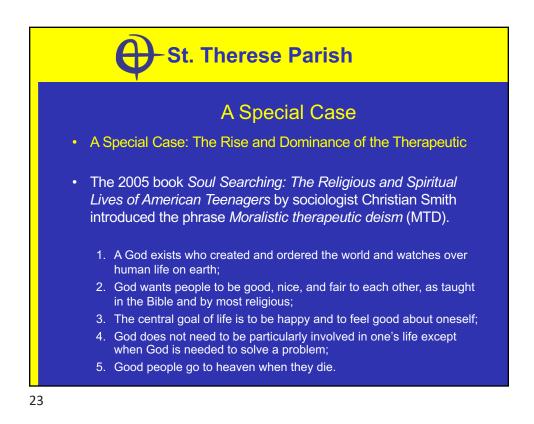
STREET SALES

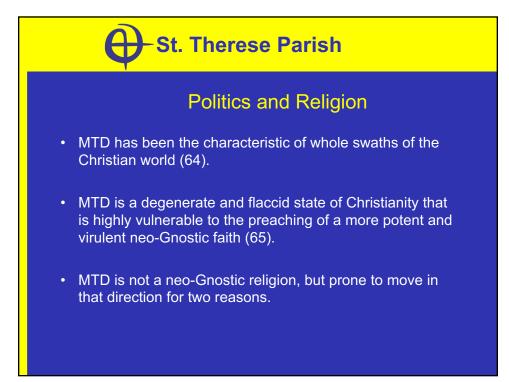


Politics and Religion

- They can forget that our most significant battleground is not the political or legislative landscape but the individual human soul; that our ultimate enemy is not a political party but a powerful spiritual being; and that the only way to establish the kingdom of God is by weapons of warfare suited to a spiritual battle (64).
- Key: We keep our eye on politics and have a responsibility to put those in office who best espouse God's will. However, the Church has learned never to wed itself with any political party. The Church places its hope not in political parties but rather in Jesus Christ and what He has revealed.







Politics and Religion

- First, while moderns are generally more comfortable physically, we suffer far more than our forebears did from loneliness, depression, and self-doubt. In such circumstances, the therapeutic concern to "feel good about oneself" gains a great deal of potency (65).
- Modern Gnostic belief promises freedom from alienation and this is particularly alluring for those grappling with inner psychic pain (65).
- Key: Those experiencing pain seek not only to feel good, but an adventure in helping renew a broken world.

