Anthem:

Niceness: The Ultimate Deception

'A little girl stayed for dinner at the home of her friend. The vegetable was buttered broccoli, and the mother asked if she liked it. The child replied very politely, "Oh, yes, I love it". But when the bowl of broccoli was passed, she declined to take any. The hostess said, "I thought you said you loved broccoli". The girl replied sweetly, "Oh, yes, ma'am, I do, but not enough to eat it!"

Well, that little girl was most definitely very, very nice. She even spoke nicely. Rather, she spoke the language called "nice". She said sweet-sounding things, in an oh, so polite and civilized way, yet she was lying through her teeth! Which illustrates the way most politicians speak most all the time. Though I would not subject myself to the barrage of lies and deception that was the theatrical production officially called the Democratic National Convention, I did read much commentary from several sources. And many commended Kamala Harris on her shrewd pick of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her vice-presidential running mate. Traditional media outlets, all controlled by the liberal democrats, are hailing Walz as the perfect folksy, pleasant, down-to-earth, Midwestern "nice" person who can pick up for Harris many middle American voters since he's a "nice" person they can all relate to.

Which begs the question: Since when was "niceness" a de-

termining political virtue? Well, from my observation, it's always been a factor, but perhaps never as pronounced as in today's polarized and vicious, actually murderous, political environment. Because, supposedly Trump is a very not nice person. Trump is apparently downright nasty. An ugly human being if there ever was one. And yet, it seems that more than half of America loves him. And if that's the case, then more than half of America has gone insane. And therefore, it's the bounded duty of the liberal democrats to save America and American democracy from the deplorable, pro-life, anti-freedom domestic "terrorists" all fixated on destroying the country, and by extension, the whole world! To the rescue are Harris, who by all reports is truly not nice, who can't keep a staff, as everyone she hires soon flees their jobs as they can't stomach her vicious wrath and foul language cussing them out when they fail to perform up to her vacillating standards of perfection. Kamala is certainly not nice. So to her rescue is Tim Walz, the decidedly "nice", folksy governor of a "friendly" midwestern state. While I don't personally know for sure, I would hazard to guess that much of the rural areas are sane, but that big urban center of Minneapolis-St. Paul weighs so heavily liberal that it drags the rest of the state to, as a whole, consistently vote for liberal democrats, and liberal causes. I truly feel sorry for our denominational headquarters being there, and always being in the minority on moral, social issues because of their Biblical fidelity.

In our own state, as a whole conservative, thankfully, we

have our cesspool in Jefferson City which is so heavily influenced by lobbyists. The ceaseless flow of money into the coffers of our politicians infects them to varying degrees, more so the political party apparatuses than the individual officials. While the grassroots Republican voters and lower-level party activists are nearly all solidly socially conservative, the higher-ups are much less so, and, think of themselves as assuredly more politically astute and savvy than us ordinary citizens. In other words, they know better than we do, and it's their bounded duty to do what's "best" for us, even if we don't want it. It's the power-trip syndrome seemingly most everybody succumbs to. They need our votes, so they say all the right things, but have their own agendas and axes to grind.

The fact that the Republicans in Jeff City have accomplished comparatively little the last several years is because more and more of the elected state representatives and senators are hewing toward reflecting the will of the people who elected them. Liberal media, such as the Post-Dispatch gleefully label this "Republican dysfunction", which if only the citizenry would elect democratic majorities, all would be well. Yeah, right. But in the recent primary election for governor, niceness won out. I hope and pray for Mike Kehoe, that he will be a truly great, righteous, God-fearing governor of our state. But the political pundits and party activists all praised him for his many "nice" qualities, his friendliness, his neighborliness, his approachability, his agricultural bonafides, his folksy down-to-earthiness. All of which are "nice", but will he

he govern by being "nice" to everybody? Even to those who champion an evil, anti-Christ, anti-church, pro-death agenda? Does he have the backbone to stand up to the enormous pressures that will be put on him by the demonically-empowered anti-God liberals and lobbyists, and indeed, some same-party power-hungry activists? Only God knows, and since he most likely will be elected our next governor, we must already be praying for him to come to a genuine, saving knowledge of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that he can then be filled with Holy Spirit, and follow unquestioningly and unashamedly the will of God for Missouri, the true heartland of America.

America was founded as a Christian nation, for the express purpose of furthering the Gospel of Christ to the native peoples in North America and to the ends of the earth. This is without question the reason we exist. Yet in vast areas of our society, there's hardly a trace remaining of that heritage. For far too long we've voted for "nice" people, who weren't God fearing, but who may have well said they were, but who hardly if ever cracked open the Bible except maybe at a Sunday church service. And look at where all these "nice" people have led us. Does the America you wake up to every morning resemble the America you woke up to when you were growing up? If not, then something must change! We must elect Christians to be our governing authorities, who will reestablish the common sense laws and justice that the Bible put forth, that form the standard for all human behavior on this earth.

Why, extensive passages from just today's Scripture lessons vividly describe our current sorry state. Psalm 14:1 describes the multitudes in our country and around the world that insist that the only gods existing are those of our own making. Interesting turnaround there. The creature claims to have created its own creator! The verse says: 'Only the withering soul would say to himself, "There is no God". Anyone who thinks like this is corrupt and callous, devoid of what is good.' Up to now, these are the kind of people who've been running our government, our country, and many in our state and municipal offices. To say nothing of our universities, our high schools and elementary schools. Our public libraries are filled with vile and obscene trash that claims to be art and literature, while the Bible, God's very Word, is deemed to be divisive, offensive hate speech that must be kept out of the hands of impressionable young people, lest they be contaminated with its intolerant, hateful rhetoric and grow up to become more "Make America Great Again" terrorist "patriots" whose only goal in life is to tear down the "beautiful, tolerant, democracy" painstakingly built over the last hundred years. They must not be allowed to succeed and destroy all the "progress" that has been made; all the liberation of humanity, from these outdated, outmoded, unhealthy and enslaving doctrines from traditional Christianity.

God is looking down at us. He's searching for some righteous people running the show. But, as Psalm 14:2-4 explain, God can't find any. "Adonai looks down in love, looking over all of Adam's sons and daughters. He's looking to see if there is anyone who acts wisely, any who are searching for God and wanting to please Him. But everyone has wandered astray, walking stubbornly toward evil. Not one is good; He can't even find one. They live in luxury while exploiting My people! Won't these workers of wickedness ever learn? They don't ever think of praying to God".

Is God pleased? Is this not a most sorry state of affairs? If nothing else, we should be deeply grieved that God is not being honored as He deserves. And if grieved, then should we not be trying to do something about it? Should we not seek diligently to reverse these conditions? To those who agree that we should, then should we not then do as God's prescription directs us? Most of us are retired and no longer in the workforce. means that we have graduated into the ranks of intercessors. Intercessors are the people who intercede with God on behalf of others, obviously our families and friends, but also our neighbors, neighborhoods, cities, states, nations, indeed the entire world. Intercessors are the people who pray. In however many spare moments we have in our day-to-day lives, we pray. We maintain a sense of God's presence, Holy Spirit, Who's promised to be with us, always, never leaving us, if we but seek Him and God's will in prayer; all to know what, when and who to pray for. He'll help us to see situations, places and people through His eyes; no longer falling for the deception of those the devil puts up in front of us who are "nice". We'll know the fake from the real. Just pray!

