

The Good People — The Holy Bible

and read her heart and know what to say to get her to go through with it (4:16). He knew this without admitting to himself that this was what he wanted, for it would make him a hypocrite and liar (12:22). He knew, in some locked-up little part of him, why it was that he'd gone to no one to open up and seek their life counsel, not Pastor Steve or the prayer partners at campus ministries, not his UPS friends or the spiritual counseling available through his parents' old church. But he did not know why Sheri herself had not gone to Pastor Steve (44:15)—he could not read her heart. She was blank and hidden. He so fervently wished it never happened (3:19). He felt like he knew now why it was a true sin and not just a left-over rule from past society. He felt like he had been brought low by it and humbled and now did believe that the rules were there for a reason (5:19). That the rules were concerned with him personally, as an individual. He promised God he had learned his lesson. But what if that, too, was a hollow promise, from a hypocrite who repented only after, who promised submission but really only wanted a reprieve? He might not even know his own heart or be able to

Hebrews 4:16 Then let us come near to the seat of grace without fear, so that mercy may be given to us, and we may get grace for our help in time of need. Proverbs 12:22 False lips are hated by the Lord, but those whose acts are true are his delight. Psalms 44:15 My downfall is ever before me, and I am covered with the shame of my face; Acts 3:19 So then, let your hearts be changed and be turned to God, so that your sins may be completely taken away, and times of blessing may come from the Lord;

read and know himself (2:12). He kept thinking also of 1 Timothy and the hypocrite therein who disputeth over words. He felt a terrible inner resistance but could not feel what it was that it resisted. This was the truth. All the different angles and ways they had come at the decision together did not ever include it—the word—for had he once said it, avowed that he did love her, loved Sheri Fisher, then it all would have been transformed (4:8). It would not be a different stance or angle, but a difference in the very thing they were praying and deciding on together. Sometimes they had prayed together over the phone, in a kind of half code in case anybody accidentally picked up the extension (4:6-7). She continued to sit as if thinking, in the pose of thinking, like that one statue. They were right up next to each other on the table. He was looking over past her at the

Proverbs 2:12 Giving you salvation from the evil man, from those whose words are false; 1 Peter 4:8 And most of all be warm in your love for one another; because in love there is forgiveness for sins without number: Philipians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.