

Good News By Vic Dove

We All Have Scars

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Galatians 6:7

I read this quote the other day, “Nobody can go back and start a New Beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new Ending.”

For the believer who lives with the scars of poor decisions in the past, Paul’s words in Galatians 6:7 may seem rather harsh. We might want to say to the Apostle Paul, I thought I was forgiven of all my bad choices when I accepted Jesus as my Savior, and Paul would say you were.

In spite of what the world and prosperity preachers might try to tell us, we are accountable for our choices and consequences and scars come with the

choices.

So many believers experience tension because they live daily with the scars of past sins after accepting Christ as Savior. Mistakenly, they thought or hoped or were told that once they accepted Christ as Savior, God would miraculously erase the scars. With the daily evidence that God has not taken away the scars, many believers mistakenly conclude that God has not or even worse cannot forgive them. If God’s Word was true, they surmise, if He really loved me and truly forgave me, surely He would not allow me to suffer with this constant reminder of my past.

What we all need to understand is that consequences are circumstantial, not relational. The man who drank for so many years and develops cirrhosis of the liver knows that his disease has a direct link to his drinking. He knows, even though he may deny the truth, that as a result of his drinking he is experiencing the negative effects of drinking. The person who gave into

the temptation to have an affair with a co-worker knows in their heart that their ruined marriage is a consequence of their choice to sow to their sinful nature. It is a result of the circumstances that occurred within the choice they made that ruined the marriage.

If we can begin to understand the importance of both forgiveness and consequences, we can begin to get past our problems with the reality that even though God, if He chooses to, can remove the scars of our past sins; although, He often chooses not to. As much as we argue about fairness and grace, we know as we allow God to renew our minds that each is a principle in line with His grace. Thank God that He understands and doesn’t make things too easy for us. If there were no scars or consequences to sin, as the world tries to tell us, where would we be, headed for trouble and more bad choices most likely.

Shoulder to Shoulder,
Bro. Vic

VSU Announces Dancing Stars, Pros, and Upcoming Scholarship Fundraiser

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University’s favorite dance competition is gearing up for another season of memorable routines and making dreams come true.

VSU’s Music Scholarship Board and Golden Circle Scholarship and Support Fund Board will present Dancing with the Valdosta Stars 2024 at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center. Admission is \$125 per person or \$1,200 for a table that seats 10 people. Sponsorship and VIP tables are also available.

Eight couples — one local “star” paired with one local “pro” — will dance for the Audience Favorite Award and help raise much-needed funds for music, theatre, and dance scholarships. They are:

- Mikki Hudson, owner of Jessie’s Eats and Treats, dancing with Joe Mason, associate professor of theatre at VSU;

- Dean Brooks, Valdosta native and longtime supporter of VSU College of the Arts and VSU Athletics, dancing with Nemo Rico, musical theatre student from Bogota, Colombia;

- Suzie Puckett, registered nurse with SGM Health’s Smith Northview Campus, dancing with Al Leyva, owner of Al Leyva Construction;

- Laura Walker, VSU alumna and longtime supporter of VSU College of the Arts, dancing with Trey Harrell, musical theatre student from Opa-locka, Florida;

- Tim Goins, Brooks County High School drama and dance teacher and Performing Arts manager, dancing with Margaret Anne Cosper, adjunct dance faculty at VSU;

- Herb Reinhardt, director of VSU Athletics, dancing



Pictured, from left to right, are Blair Anderson, Nemo Rico, Laura Walker, Dean Brooks, Elinor Fenimor, Melissa Pihos, Herb Reinhard, Joe Mason, Mikki Hudson, Bill Slaughter, Suzie Puckett. Not pictured are Al Leyva, Trey Harrell, Tim Goins, Margaret Anne Cosper, and Cody Radney.

with Melissa Pihos, associate professor of dance at VSU

- Cody Radney, owner of The Cody Store, dancing with Blair Anderson, adjunct dance faculty at VSU; and

- Bill Slaughter, chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, dancing with Elinor Fenimor, musical theatre student from Macon, Georgia.

During the competition attendees will receive a token to drop in their favorite couple’s ballot box; these tokens are valued at \$125. Additional votes may be cast by dropping cash or checks into a favorite couple’s

ballot box at the event or by making an online donation at <https://community.valdostastate.org/dancing-with-the-stars-donations>. Online voting ends at noon on the day of the competition.

Dancing with the Valdosta Stars has raised nearly \$400,000 for scholarships since it started in 2012.

Call the VSU College of the Arts Outreach office at 229-333-2150 for more information, or visit <https://community.valdostastate.org/dancing-with-the-stars> to purchase tickets or tables.

Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn’t update government’s website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory ‘pet’ names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government’s website
- official offers solution which isn’t a full solution, just to appear ‘helpful’
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn’t look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what’s being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn’t do it him/herself.