

August 23, 2026

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What Does God Require of Government?

If God has established civil government, what does He expect government to do? Scripture gives a remarkably clear answer: government is to punish evil, uphold justice, and protect those who cannot protect themselves. Psalm 82 speaks directly to rulers: “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:3–4). Government possesses power, but biblical justice asks how that power is used. It must not be used merely to benefit the powerful. It must be used to restrain those who do evil and defend those who are vulnerable. Daniel gave King Nebuchadnezzar the same warning. After describing God's judgment, Daniel urged the king to “break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed” (Daniel 4:27). Even a pagan king was accountable to God's standard of justice.

Scripture also recognizes the deterrent purpose of punishment. “Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11). Justice delayed can encourage further wrongdoing.

This gives government both power and responsibility. A government that refuses to punish evil abandons the innocent to the wicked. A government that punishes the innocent becomes wicked itself.

For Christians, this means we should evaluate government not merely by whether it gives us what we want, but by whether it pursues justice. God's standard remains higher than political preference: punish evil, protect the vulnerable, and uphold what is right.

- Freddie Klein

OUR ELDERS:

Dan Cottrell

John Cottrell

Clint Oppermann

Jeff Rhodes

OUR DEACONS:

Joe Burns

Steve Ellis

Jon Ferrie

Ryan Haedge

Matt Lyndoe

Blake McDaniel

Mike Pope

Trey Post

Marv Sowell

Tony Tucker

Thomas Waggoner

Daniel Winkler

OUR STAFF:

Freddie Klein - Minister

Cy Warren - Youth

Mary Grace Warren - Office

office@southernhills.net

AM - Sent, Not Safe - Acts 13:1-3

Children's Bible Time: Front of Auditorium at 5PM

PM - David and Holiness - Psalm 51:1-4

Read the Bible in 1 Year:

Sunday - Psalm 116-118, 1 Corinthians 7:1-19; **Monday** - Psalm 119:1-88, 1 Corinthians 7:20-40; **Tuesday** - Psalm 119:89-176, 1 Corinthians 8; **Wednesday** - Psalm 120-122, 1 Corinthians 9; **Thursday** - Psalm 123-125, 1 Corinthians 10:1-18; **Friday** - Psalm 126-128, 1 Corinthians 10:19-33; **Saturday** - Psalm 129-131, 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

PRAYER LIST and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the **Haedge family**, as Ryan's mother recently had to have surgery.

Sabrena Sowell's friend, **Meagan Luczak**, is having medical tests done. Please pray for good results and peace while she waits.

Beth Breeden is in need of prayer. Please pray for her comfort and peace during this time.

Please pray for **Joe Cottrell**, who is at Williamson Medical with pneumonia. Please pray for healing, strength, and comfort as he recovers.

Kathy Wall, Thomas Waggoner's mother, is recovering from a recent car accident. Please pray for healing and a smooth recovery.

Continue to Remember:

Ralph Hogg, Dave Sweeney, Bill & Wilma Davis, Jim Duty, David Elliott, Joanne Hallford, Beverly Jenkins, Tina Kelso, Richard King, Janice Martin, John & Melba Sims, Jimmy Smithson, Bobbie Wilhoite, Bert Woodroof, Mickey Petty, Kyle Labore, Brad Harrub, Margaret Douglas, and Billie Rutledge.

Our Shut-ins: Patricia Marsh

VISITORS: Please fill out a card from the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the collection plate so we may have a record of your attendance.



Online Giving Instructions

Online:

<https://donate.stripe.com/6oEcQKgAla0HczS000>

App:

Lightpost App



THOSE TO SERVE

TODAY - SUNDAY

Ushers: Steve Ellis, John Cottrell

Song Leader: Matt Lyndoe

Reader and Opening Prayer: Acts 13:1-3

Scripture: Daniel Winkler

Preside at Lord's Table: Ryan Haedge

Serve the Lord's Supper: Bryan Breedan, Kyle Richardson, Mike Pope, Jon Ferrie

Closing Prayer: David Broome

Nursery Attendants: Linda Cottrell, Madison Walker

TODAY'S EVENING SERVICE

Song Leader: Matt Lyndoe

Opening Prayer: Randy Hunt

Preside at Lord's Table: Cy Warren

Closing Prayer: Jeff Rhodes

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

Devotional Speaker: Freddie Klein

Song Leader: Matt Lyndoe

Opening Prayer: Marshall Post

Closing Prayer: Steve Ellis

Sound for 8/23 Week: Marv Sowell

Projector for 8/23 Week: Kyle Richardson

THE RECORD

Last Sunday (8/16/2026)

Morning Worship: 121

Sunday School: 66

Contribution Last

Sunday: \$9,948.00

Contribution YTD: \$349,446.00

Contribution Goal YTD: \$346,500.00

PREPARE COMMUNION - AUGUST

Warren Family

COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS - AUGUST

Ellis Family

BUILDING LOCK-UP - AUGUST

Deacons

MONTHLY ELDER CHAIRMAN - AUGUST

Dan Cottrell

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING EVENTS

Please contact the church office to schedule an event.

office@southernhills.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Wide

Today - Bible Bowl practice

August 30 - Fifth Sunday,

Youth Devo

Sep 12 - Bible Bowl

Sep 19 - Ladies Day

Fifth Sunday

We will have our fifth Sunday schedule on August 30th. Our AM Worship and Bible class will be at their normally appointed times, followed by a potluck meal at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon worship service at noon. There will be no 5:00 p.m. worship service.

Ladies Day

This years Ladies Day will be September 19th at 9am. Brunch will be served. Please RSVP by using the sign up sheet in the foyer, or by contacting the church office or Linda Cottrell.

Ladies Bible Class

We will be starting Ladies Bible Class on September 2nd. The class will meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

This fall, we will be studying Ruth and Judges. If you are unable to attend, Jessica will be sending out notes from each class so you can follow along from home.

First Semester Study:

Appointed: Rising to Your Spiritual Potential, along with Padfield Study Guides for Judges and Ruth.

Second Semester Study:

Perfected: God's Best Reserved for You, along with the Padfield Study Guide for Hebrews. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Burns or the Church Office.

MISSIONS MEMO...

World Christian Broadcasting • Franklin, TN

World Christian Broadcasting is a non-profit organization supported by concerned Christians whose purpose is to take God's Word—through mass media—to people who may have no other means of hearing the Good News.

Our official Mission Statement: "World Christian Broadcasting exists so that people in places best served by broadcast media become aware of the Good News of Jesus Christ and want to know more."

The message of God is relevant to all time, yet the ways that message is delivered must stay current. World Christian Broadcasting's international shortwave broadcasting communicates the Good News to millions every day. KNLS, located at the top of the world in Anchor Point, Alaska, has been on the air since 1983.

A new station, located on the island of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, has produced tremendous positive feedback helping spread the Gospel around the globe. In addition, each of our seven languages offers its own website, so that people out of broadcast range can still read important, life-giving messages.

Through these shortwave transmissions, we can blanket virtually the entire inhabited world. By speaking in people's own language, forming friendships, and creating bonds of trust, World Christian Broadcasting sparks hope, interest, and curiosity among listeners. Programming encourages a personal study of the message of Jesus. By the grace of God and the technology He provides, many will hear the Good News, perhaps for the first time, and respond to the life-changing invitation of Jesus.

Thank you so much for helping us share our mission. We're passionate about sharing the love of Jesus and the Bible with people everywhere on our planet. Our journey began with a simple idea: to utilize shortwave radio to connect hearts around the globe. Thank you, Southern Hills, for joining us in this wonderful adventure of faith!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Today- Bible Bowl practice

August 30 - Youth Devo after second service

September 12 - Bible Bowl

We are very excited for Bible Bowl this year! The theme this year is Genesis 26 - 50. Let Cy Warren or Beth Lincoln know if you are interested in participating this year.

October 2 - Lock-Out with Concord Road

Bible Bowl Practice Schedule

08/16 & 08/19 - Genesis 38-41 08/23
& 08/26 - Genesis 42-45 08/30 &
09/02 - Genesis 46-50 09/06 - No
practice due to Labor day
09/09 - Full review for Bible Bowl



TBD - Family Devo and Picnic

Today - Bible Bowl practice

TIMES SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - 9 AM
BIBLE CLASS - 10 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - 5 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE - 6 PM
Classes for all ages

Southern Hills Church of Christ
2508 Goose Creek Bypass
Franklin, TN 37064