

EPHESIANS 1:5-6 THE GOOD PLEASURE OF GOD'S WILL

We need to be more directed to the pleasures of God that are revealed in Scripture. We want to see some of the infinite measure of His worth and excellencies, and in seeing this glory, be transformed to the likeness of His Son.

God has always been a God who is exuberantly happy. If He were unhappy, that would mean there is a deficiency in Him. He would be lacking joy. God does not lack anything. There is nothing we can offer to Him that would make Him more happy. We are people who are needy and deficient and are not satisfied. We find our joy in Him. He is the all-sufficient, ever-happy God.

1. GOD'S PLEASURES

A. GOD IS PLEASED IN ALL HE DOES

(Hephetz)—delight, please

All His acts are the expression of joy and He takes pleasure in all that He does.

Psalm 135:6, Psalm 115:1-3---He has sovereign freedom in the heavens
God cannot be hindered from doing what He wants and being pleased

Isaiah 46:9-10

His acts spring up from the passion to express the abundance of His delight. He acts on His delights without being stopped by powers outside Himself. His pleasure flows from His perfections, including the perfection of His infinite power. His delight is the joy that He has in the reflection of His own glory in the person of His Son. God's power always makes way for His perfections to be expressed according to His good pleasure.

Phil 2:12-13, Heb 13:21

B. THE COMPLEXITY OF GOD'S PLEASURE

If God controls the wind and makes it blow whenever and wherever He pleases—which is true(Ps 147:18)-then somehow God is responsible for the destruction of thousands of lives by drowning because of the storms and hurricanes, and tornadoes and typhoons which God has brought forth. Do we charge God with wrong when we say this? This is complex. Satan can cause sickness and He is a murderer from the beginning. But He is not stronger than God. The hands of God are never tied. God's sovereignty over Satan is certainly comforting. God controls the world. God makes comfort and creates calamity.(Isa 45:7) Lam 3:38 Amos 3:6 The Lord gives and takes away. He is the source of life and He appoints the time to take it. There is a tension that our finite minds wrestle with. God can grieve over sin and be angry with the wicked and at the same time He rejoices over a sinner repenting. There is a sense in which He does not experience pleasure in the judgment of the wicked, and there is the sense in which He does. Death and misery is no delight to God and He is not a sadist. But He does exalt in truth and righteousness and His glory and honor. When one is judged by God, God demonstrates His justice and power and the infinite worth of His glory.

Ezekiel 18:32, Deut 28:63

C. GOD IS PLEASED IN HIS FAME

1 Samuel 12:22—Election is a means to the goal of His name

being honored and His fame being spread (Psalm 106:7-8)
God delights in having His name known. Fame means a well known name. He delights in being known for who He really is. He is pleased with a world wide name. God's love for His name is the foundation of His mercy to sinners.
God has pleasure in His name, His reputation.

D. GOD IS PLEASED IN HIS ELECTION

Note that in v. 5 our election, predestination, and adoption are ascribed to the "good pleasure" of God's "will." But if God must elect people because He foresees their faith, what would be the point of saying that they are elect according to His "good pleasure?" On the Arminian scheme of divine election God's "good pleasure" is fundamentally irrelevant. What God "wills" or does "not will", what "pleases" or "displeases" God would have nothing to do with election. If election is conditional on foreseen faith it becomes a matter of obligation and duty and requirement, not good pleasure and sovereign choice. See also Mt. 11:26 and Luke 10:21.

Note also that election pleases God. He likes it. God didn't predestine us unwillingly, grudgingly, or reluctantly. He wanted to do it. He delighted to do it. God has an emotional life. There is immense and unfathomable complexity in His feelings: He delights in some things, and despises others. He loves and hates. He rejoices and judges. Choosing hell-deserving sinners to spend an eternity with Him as his beloved children is uniquely joyful and pleasing and delightful and exciting and satisfying to the heart of God! Should it not also then be a joyful and pleasing and delightful and exciting and satisfying truth to our hearts? Should we not, then, talk of it often, sing of it often, and often tell of it to others? God's pleasures must become our pleasures. We must learn to rejoice in that which rejoices Him.

It is His pleasure to magnify the glory of His free and sovereign grace in choosing a people that they might be for Him a name.
He is free to choose whomever He delights in to choose.
Deut 10:14-15 "He delighted in your fathers to love them"
Luke 10:21—Revealed to babes This is the free electing love of God to hide things from the intellectual elite and reveal them to babes. He takes pleasure in choosing the least likely. In v 22 No one knows who the Son is except the Father. He reveals the Son to whom He wants.
The Father's pleasure in election in the Gospel of John
Belonging to the Father precedes coming to Jesus. Jn 6:37-39
John 10:25-26—the sheep
John 17:6,10:3,4,5, 14,27,28, 6:37,39

2. GOD'S GLORY

THE ULTIMATE MOTIVE, THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Man by Himself does not desire salvation. God is moved because of His grace, love, and compassion. The ultimate motive for God in doing what he does, is to the praise of the glory of His grace. Even more astonishing is that God purposed to reveal His glory through us.

A. DESCRIPTION

The essential nature of God, The sum total of His attributes
Hebrews 1:3 brightness and effulgence
Beauty, majesty, splendor, greatness, might, eternity
1 Kings 8 Exodus 40:34 Isa 6:1-4
Luke 2:14, John 1:14, 2 Cor 4:6

B. DISPLAYED IN ALL GOD DOES

1. Nature Psalm 19:1, Ps 8: The glory of God is displayed in everything that God does. It is to be seen in nature.
2. History Flood, Exodus, Red Sea, Jordan River, Mt Sinai
3. Redemption
4. Righteousness Rom 3:25-26 The glory of God is revealed in His holiness and righteousness.
5. Through us Eph 3:10, John 17:10, Matthew 5:16

6. GRACE

Above all else the glory of God has been revealed to us in grace.

7) The ultimate goal of divine election, that is to say, the pre-eminent reason why God did not leave all humanity in the just reward of their sin, was so that the glory of his grace might be praised. Election was undertaken to establish a platform on which the glory of God's saving grace might be seen and magnified and adored and praised. Thus we see again here a consistent theme in Scripture: all that God does, he ultimately does, to glorify himself!

We have been highly favored by the grace of God. We give Him all the glory. He that glories, let him glory in the Lord.—1 Cor 1:31