

unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." 8 And **Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.** 9 And he said, "If now I have found favor in Thy sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate; and do Thou pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Thine own possession." NASB

See here where Moses asked God to **show him His glory** and God responded first by protecting Moses from the intensity of His full unveiled glory by placing him in the cleft of the rock. Moses brought the two stone tablets as God intended to repeat His commandments during the encounter. Then as God's passes by, He recounts in a spoken **"word"** the glory of His person or nature saying, ***"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."*** But consider what it is that God reveals **AS** His own glory. It is a list of some of His attributes, the virtues of His own moral perfection. See here what the nature of God and His glory are intrinsically. They are the perfection and excellency of His nature, the attributes that make up the divine being. Therefore we should **not** think of the glory of God as **separate** from the moral perfection of ALL of His attributes or the beauty of His holiness [otherly character], or any other aspect of His nature. They are all intrinsically tied together. All of His attributes are equally glorious and good! For a detailed study of this encounter and the meaning of this specific "Word" from God see the appendix "The Gracious Name of God."

So when we consider what **God delights in**, we need to understand that **there is nothing more profound, or beautiful, our pleasant than God's own glory and Goodness.** Therefore He delights in His own glory above all other things, which are all created things and only reflect His glory partially, or veiled images of God's own original Goodness. There are actually numerous biblical texts which explicitly state that God seeks His own glory. In fact, there are so many, it would be exhausting just to list them all much less examine them. But here are a few.....

Isaiah 48:9-11 - "**For the sake of My name** I delay My wrath, And **for My praise** I restrain it for you, In order not to cut you off. 10 "Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. 11 "**For My own sake, for My own sake,** I will act; For how **can My name be profaned?** And **My glory I will not give to another.** NASB

Isaiah 43:7 - Everyone who is **called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory,** Whom I have formed, even whom I have made. " NASB

Jeremiah 13:11 - 11'For as the waistband clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole household of Israel and the whole household of Judah cling to Me,' declares the LORD,' that **they might be for Me a people, for renown, for praise, and for glory;** but they did not listen. NASB

Psalms 106:7-8 - Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Thy wonders; They did not remember Thine abundant kindnesses, But rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. 8 Nevertheless **He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.** NASB

John 7:18-19 - 18 "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but **He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him,** He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. NASB

Matthew 5:16 - 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, **and glorify your Father who is in heaven.** NASB

John 12:27-29 - 27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But **for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Thy name."** There came therefore a voice out of heaven: "**I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**" NASB

John 17:24 - 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, **in order that they may behold My glory,** which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world. NASB

Romans 9:17 - 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and **that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.**" NASB

1 Peter 4:11 - 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory** and dominion forever and ever. Amen. NASB

Learn then, the **Bible plainly declares** that **chief among the purposes of God** is the **pursuit of His own glory** and the fame of His great name!

And God is the only being for who it is **right** and **proper** to delight in Himself, because He Himself is the paragon of virtue and goodness. All other beings derive their goodness from the Creator and are in their best display, only vague **reflections** of the **source** of all virtue which is God. Therefore it is **improper**, even sinful and blasphemous for creatures to delight in themselves **above the Creator**, who is far more, yes infinitely more delightful than the **creature**. This is what God calls **idolatry** and it violates the first commandment of God's standard for worship, the Ten Commandments. This is the same reason why the second commandment **forbids the creating of images or idols** to represent God, because He cannot be represented by any created things for He is infinitely higher and more beautiful and profound than anything created or that the creature can conceive.

Exodus 20:2-6 - 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "**You shall have no other gods before Me.** 4 "**You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.** 5 **You shall not worship them or serve them;** for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. NASB

Grudem comments.... "*Someone might object that it is wrong for God to seek glory for himself in creating man. Certainly it is wrong for human beings to seek glory for themselves, as we see in the dramatic example of the death of Herod Agrippa I. When he proudly accepted the shout of the crowd, "The voice of a god, and not of man!" (Acts 12:22), "immediately an angel of the Lord smote him, because he did not give God the glory; and he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:23). Herod died because he robbed God of glory, glory that God deserved and he did not....But when God takes glory to himself, from whom is he robbing glory? Is there anyone who deserves glory more than he does? Certainly not! He is the Creator, he made all things, and he deserves all glory. He is worthy of receiving glory. Man may not seek glory for himself, but in this case what is wrong for man is right for God, because he is the Creator. It is right not wrong, that he be glorified—in fact, if he did not receive glory from all creatures in the universe, that would be horribly wrong!" (from Systematic Theology, Copyright © 1994 by Wayne Grudem)*

Therefore, God delights in His own glory and has made the creation as a means of displaying His Goodness in all of its various attributes.

Now we have laid some ground work to understand **God's purpose in salvation**, which serves the higher purpose of the display of His own glory and excellency as God. In salvation, God displays and manifests His own glory.

Ephesians 3:8-11 - 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and **to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery** which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 **in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.** 11 This was in accordance with **the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus** our Lord, NASB