

Does God get what he wants most? I'm not saying God is not real but can you explain how God takes no pleasure in sending people to hell and doesn't want to send people there but he always gets what he wants the most and people go to hell? I just want to understand.

It is not God's will that any should perish (2 Pe 3:9). Even when men do go to hell, God is still glorified (Jn 1:14). Those who will not humble themselves before God give him the opportunity to demonstrate another facet of his personality—wrath.

What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy (Ro 9:22–23A).

God has commanded men to love him and to love others. He cares very much about how men treat him and how they treat others (Mk 12:29-31). Adrian Rogers said: "He doesn't love you because you are valuable. You are valuable because he loves you."

The cross shows men what God thinks of sin (Ex. 32:34, Zech 13:1, Ro 6:23). Men do not appreciate the exceeding sinfulness of sin so they trivialize transgressions (Ro 1:21). God does not. Every sin will be paid for (Mt 5:26) by the sinner himself or it will have been paid for by Jesus' work on the cross (Jn 17:4). Trust in his sacrifice is man's only hope (Eph 2:16, Mt 12:17–21, 32; Jn 8:24, Ro 5:12).

The prophet Micah wrote: He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Mic 6:8.

God expressed his will (Ro 7:2–9) by the giving of his law (Ex 20:1–26). Man is given a choice to obey it and live or disobey it and die (Deut 30:19, 2 Kin 17:3–41, Ro 3:27, 6:23).

Man was made upright (Eccl 7:29). He is expected to overcome evil (Re 17:13, 14). Should he succeed, he will: eat of the tree of life (Re 2:7), be exempted from the second death (Re 2:11), be given power over the nations (Re 2:26), be clothed in white garments (Re 3:5), be made a pillar in God's Temple (Re 3:12) and rule with Christ (Re 3:21).¹

Man is God's crown of creation (Ge 1:26, 27) being made in his own image (Gen. 9:6). He was created for God's pleasure and glory (Is 43:7; Rev. 4:11) not his own (1 Co 6:20, Ro 8:13).

God has a determined will and a permissive will. Although he would like each person to choose him, he allows for the possibility that they will not so that love is real not coerced (Ge 3:5, Ac 17:27). He is calling out a people for his namesake. He plans to live forever with those who love him (1 Pe 1:8). God's determined will will occur (e.g. his son died on a cross to save men from their sins [1 Pet. 1:18, 19], Jesus will return again [Mt 24:30]). God's permissive will may or may not occur depending on man's choice. Whosoever will choose him will be saved and whosoever won't choose him won't be saved (Ro 10:13, Ac 17:27).

If God were to allow those who hated him live with him in heaven, that would make heaven hell. Flannery O'Connor said: "If there were no hell, we would be like the animals. No hell, no dignity."

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 464). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.