

God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Question #69: How does a common sense understanding of sovereignty mistakenly believe that God's highest purpose is the salvation of mankind?_____

Question #70: How do Romans 9:14-21 and 1 Peter 1:20-21 affirm that God purposed from the beginning that some would be redeemed and others would be damned?_____

Many who claim that it is God's will that all men and women be saved quote the following verses:

1 Timothy 2:3-6: ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

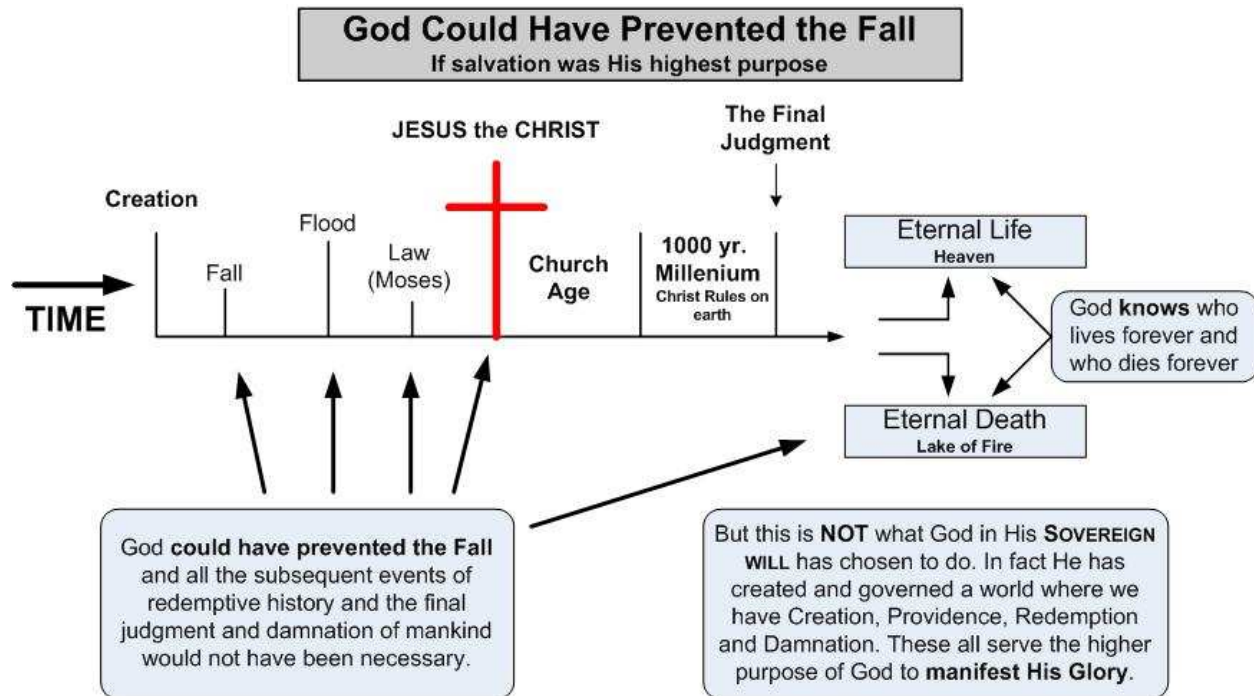
Romans 11:32: For **God has shut up all in disobedience** that He might show mercy to all.

They fail to consider, however, that if God's highest purpose were to save all mankind, then that is exactly what God would do. God would not have shut up all people into disobedience if He desired to save them all; rather He would have simply prevented the fall from happening. He could have done this in many ways, not the least of which would have been to NOT create the tree of the knowledge of good and evil nor to give a law not to eat from it. These verses then, simply reflect the **moral will** of God.

God does not delight in the death of anyone, even hardened sinners (Ezekiel 18:32). However, He will judge and damn hardened sinners because doing so displays the excellence of His goodness, justice, and wrath. So even though in His **moral will** He does not delight in the death of death of the wicked, in His **sovereign will** He demands it. God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves. Consider the following quote from John Piper:

The misery and the suffering that judgment brings upon the impenitent, in and of itself, does not delight the heart of God. He is not malicious or bloodthirsty. That's what Ezekiel 18:32 is warning us NOT to believe about God. Rather, when He brings judgment on the impenitent and unbelieving and wicked, the delight that He takes in that act is delight in the vindication of His justice and His

truth and righteousness, and the value of His name which has been profaned by unbelievers. God’s heart is capable of grieving over the misery and the sin, considered in and of itself, of any unbelieving lost person (Ezekiel 18:32), while at the same time, rejoicing and exulting exuberantly in the vindication of His righteousness and His name as He destroys them in hell (Deuteronomy 28:63). If that does not fit together in your own mind and heart, you are finite and God is infinite. **Do not shape God into your limited image**, let the Holy Scriptures stand, and may God build His true character in your heart and in your eyes.¹



Question #71: How can God *not* delight in the death of the wicked while acting decisively to destroy them in hell? _____

God’s Glory displayed in all things

Consider then, how God displays His glory in all things. Listed below are a few of the divine excellencies that are seen in the works of God.

¹ John Piper, “The Pleasure of God in All He Does,” Sermon: February 1, 1987. For a more detailed discussion of this subject, see: John Piper, *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God’s Delight in Being God*, Appendix: “Are There Two Wills in God? Divine Election and God’s Desire For All to be Saved.” (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2000), 313-340.