

Superlatives of Eternal Life

“Thanks be unto God for **his unspeakable gift.**”

II Corinthians 9:15

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given,
that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ.**”

Ephesians 3:8

Introduction:

1. Adjectives modify or describe their nouns – they are either *descriptive*, *comparative*, or *superlative*.
2. The *big* house is a descriptive adjective, the *bigger* house comparative, the *biggest* house superlative.
3. A *superlative* adjective means its noun is beyond *comparison* to others by exceeding all *comparisons*.
4. Extreme adjectives – God is great, greatly to be praised, and his greatness is *unsearchable* (Ps 145:3).
5. The Bible describes things in extreme terms to identify transcendent value (Ps 40:5; 147:5; Is 40:17).
6. The Bible uses extreme adjectives like *unspeakable* and *unsearchable* for eternal life (see two above).
7. God’s grace is *exceeding* (Eph 1:19; 2:7; 3:20) and *beyond human knowledge* (Eph 3:18-19; I Cor 2:9).
8. Paul denigrated himself as a preacher by going beyond a superlative – *less than the least* – of all saints.
9. For much more of the *unsearchable* riches of Christ ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/unsearchable-riches.pdf>.

Eternal Life Is

the GREATEST gift,
and COSTLIEST,
from RICHEST,
to POOREST,
given FREEST.

Eternal Life is the GREATEST Gift

- A. This superlative is from our perspective – comprehensive and incomparable benefits.
- B. Eternal life saves us from infinite-like damnation to eternal and infinite-like pleasures.
- C. It includes redemption of souls from a debt of sin requiring eternity in hell (Eph 1:7).
- D. It has a purchased pardon for condemned on death row for the second death (Rev 20:6).
- E. It includes justification to the end God views us as righteous as Jesus Christ (II Co 5:21).
- F. It includes all legal fees for complete and final adoption as the sons of God (I John 3:1).
- G. It includes reservation of an eternal inheritance of a new universe with God (I Pet 1:4).
- H. It includes a new glorified body that totally transcends this body (Rom 8:23; Phil 3:21).
- I. Our glorious God and loving Father chose various terms and words to define salvation.
- J. Facets of our salvation ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.

Eternal Life is the COSTLIEST Gift

- A. This superlative is from God’s perspective – what did He pay to provide the gift for us.
- B. He gave His only begotten and beloved Son that always pleased Him (Matt 3:17; 17:5).
- C. God had to ignore His Son’s prayers and strengthen Him for pain before forsaking Him.
- D. By the nature of our debt and His holiness, it pleased God to bruise Him (Isaiah 53:10).
- E. God gave up His reputation to become a Man for cruel Roman crucifixion (Phil 2:5-8).
- F. Jesus told His angels to stand down in order to fulfill all righteousness (Matt 26:53-54).
- G. His precious blood that ran from cruel wounds was the high cost (I Pet 1:17-21; 2:1-7).

- H. Angels curiously admire salvation, which is one goal of His death (Eph 3:10; I Pet 1:12).
- I. Jesus will share His glorious inheritance of the universe jointly with us rebel beggars.
- J. He though rich became poor so we the poor by our rebellion could be rich (II Cor 8:9).
- K. Many pages about the *Glory of the Cross* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/glory-of-the-cross-2.pdf>.

Eternal Life is a Gift from the RICHEST

- A. This superlative describes the infinite supremacy, transcendency, or wealth of Jehovah.
- B. God and Jesus Christ are the Creators of all things, and they own all souls and things.
- C. There is no God but Jehovah! He is the only true and living God in eternity (Is 57:15).
- D. He is independently and infinitely happy, prosperous, and rich without us in any way.
- E. The rich are proud, but He is infinitely rich with contempt for His enemies (Pr 18:23).
- F. He is so superior that neither sins nor righteousness affect Him (Job 35:1-8; 22:2-3).
- G. What is man? That thou art mindful of Him? Man is like a vain shadow (Ps 8:4; 144:3).
- H. The greatness of our infinite Creator reduces us to less than nothing (Isaiah 40:12-17).
- I. His holiness demands our eternal torment (Ex 34:7; Ps 5:5; 11:5; Hab 1:13; Nah 1:3).
- J. He must find any motive for our salvation in Himself apart from any benefit from us.

Eternal Life is a Gift for the POOREST

- A. This superlative describes the infinite inferiority we have to God in ability and nature.
- B. We cannot give anything to Him He has not created and given us (Romans 11:33-36).
- C. Our breath is in our nostrils in stark contrast to His eternal power (Is 2:22; Rom 1:20).
- D. We cannot and will not give Him anything pleasing to Him (Romans 8:7-8; 1:18-32).
- E. Some have tried to define grace as unmerited favor, but it is actually demerited favor.
- F. Man is not neutral without ability for godliness, he is actively a God-hating lover of sin.
- G. The best of the angels are mere servants to God, and we were created lower than them.
- H. But beyond distance below Him, we have corrupted His ways and hate and despise Him.
- I. We are condemned at least three ways ... by Adam our head, our nature, and our sins.
- J. We did not love Him; we did not seek it; His love is independent and first (I Jn 4:9-11).
- K. We were ungodly enemies of God with no reason for His care, deliverance, blessing.
- L. God obscurely caused good men fear and guilt (Job 42:4-5; Is 6:1-5; Luk 5:8; Rev 1:17).
- M. Only His internal reasons to share the universe with His Son could move Him to do it.
- N. Lessons of our *Total Depravity* to please God ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/total-depravity.pdf>.

Eternal Life is the FREEST Gift

- A. This superlative describes giving eternal life without and even contrary to performance.
- B. Man's condition before salvation is death; salvation is described as birth; it is truly free.
- C. If the least condition was required for eternal life, then salvation would not be truly free.
- D. God gives eternal life freely by His grace (Romans 3:24; 5:15-16,18; 8:32; I Cor 2:12).
- E. If eternal life was not superlatively free, then God is a debtor and man boasts of works.
- F. God's gift cannot allow our glory or our works or His debt (Rom 3:27-28; 4:1-5; 11:6).
- G. Eternal life is an *unconditional gift*, which we prove by seven categories of evidence.
- H. There are no *offers* of eternal life requiring our acceptance; there are only *gifts* (Jn 17:2).

- I. There are no conditions, no means, no instruments depending on our compliance at all.
- J. We do not even accept Him for eternal life – He must accept us (Eph 1:6; II Cor 5:9).
- K. The only *means* of eternal life is Jesus’ death, putting a will into force (Heb 9:15-17).
- L. Eternal life is by *imputation* – all our sins accounted to Christ; His righteousness to us.
- M. For glorious truth of imputation by *Two Adams* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/two-adams.pdf>.

Conclusion:

- 1. The Bible uses extreme adjectives like *unspeakable* and *unsearchable* for eternal life (see all above).
- 2. God’s grace is *exceeding* (Eph 1:19; 2:7; 3:20) and *beyond human knowledge* (Ep 3:18-19; I Cor 2:9).
- 3. God bypassed sinning angels to exalt His glorious grace to us to impress them (I Peter 1:12; Eph 3:10).
- 4. Simple logic must calculate *a debt of love* we owe that requires our all, as Paul did (II Cor 5:14-21).
- 5. Simple math must calculate *a debt of charity* we owe that requires our all, as Paul did (II Cor 9:6-15).

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Ralph Hudson (1843-1901)

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head,
For such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done,
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man, the creature’s sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
‘Tis all that I can do.

For Further Study:

- 1. *Unsearchable Riches of Christ* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/unsearchable-riches.pdf>.
- 2. *Facets of Salvation* (variety of terms for it) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.
- 3. *Seven Proofs of Unconditional Salvation* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/salvation/unconditional-salvation/sermon.php>.
- 4. *Five Phases of Salvation* (rightly divided) ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/salvation/five-phases-of-salvation/sermon.php>.