


Ephesians 3 (NLT)

1 When I think of all this
I Paul a prisoner of Christ Jesus
for the benefit of you Gentiles

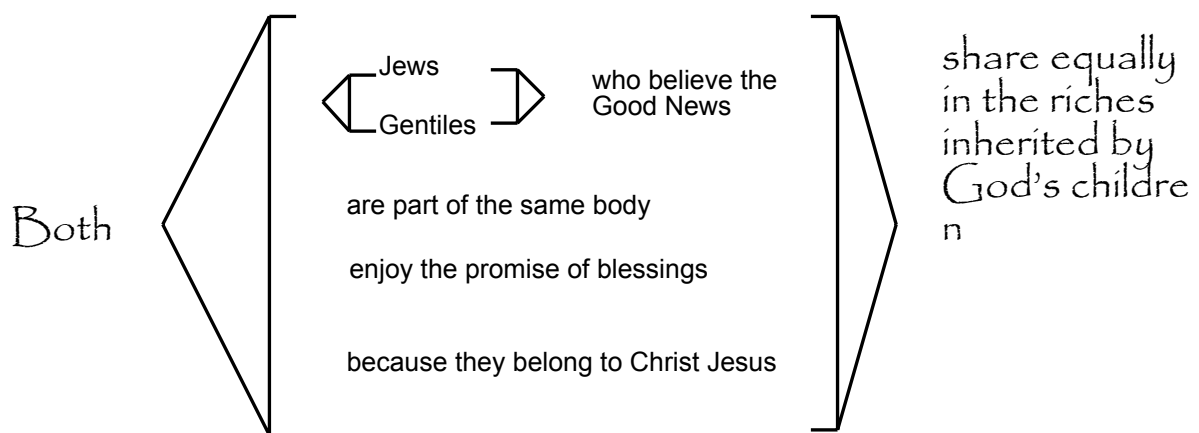
2 God gave me special responsibility
extending his grace  to you Gentiles

3 God himself
revealed his mysterious plan to me

4 As you read you will understand my insight
into this plan regarding Christ

5 God did not reveal it to previous generations
but now by his Spirit
he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets

6 And this is God's plan






7 By God's grace and mighty power
I have been given the privilege of serving him

by spreading this Good News




8 he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles
about the endless treasures available to them in Christ

Though I am the least deserving of all God's people


9 I was chosen to explain to everyone
this mysterious plan that God the Creator of all things
had kept secret from the beginning

10 God's purpose in all this was
to use the church to display his wisdom
in its rich variety to all the  unseen rulers  authorities  in the heavenly places

11 This was his eternal plan which he carried out
through Christ Jesus our Lord

12 Because of Christ and our faith in him
we can now come  boldly  confidently  into God's presence

13 So please don't lose heart because of my trials here
I am suffering for you
you should feel honored

14 When I think of all this
I fall to my knees
pray to the Father the Creator of everything  in heaven
on earth

15



16 I pray that from his glorious unlimited resources he will

empower you with inner strength through his Spirit

17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him

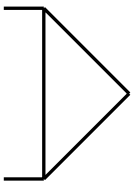
Your roots will grow down into God's love

and keep you strong

18 And may you have the power to understand

as all God's people should

how wide
how long
how high
how deep




his love is

19 May you experience the love of Christ


though it is too great to understand fully

Then you will be made complete

with all the fullness



of life
power




that comes from God

20 Now all glory to God

who is able through his mighty power at work


within us to accomplish infinitely more than we might



ask
think

21 Glory to him

in the church
in Christ Jesus



through all generations forever and ever Amen