Ephesians 3:7–“Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.”

1. “I became” – *egenethen* – “I was made” or “I became”
   a. A form of the verb *ginomai* meaning “to come into being”, “to happen”, “to become”.  
   b. It means to emerge, transitioning from one point, realm or condition to another.
2. “servant” – *diakonos* – meaning “a waiter”, “a servant”, or “any one who performs any service”.
   a. A *diakonos* was someone who was a table waiter always serving the customer and beaoning to their calls.
   b. Originally it meant “someone who raises up dust by moving about in a hurry getting finishing their errands.
   c. The English word “deacon” finds its roots in this Greek word *diakonos* which also means “minister” in English.
3. “gift of God’s grace” – refers to Paul’s spiritual gift of Apostle
   a. This gift of apostleship came with “spiritual power” and “divine opportunity”:
      i. Ep. 3:2 – “assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you”  
      ii. Ep. 3:8 – “To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”  
   b. All members of this household in Christ have a gift with divine empowerment and opportunity:
      i. Ephesians 4:11-13  
      ii. 1 Corinthians 12:1-7  
      iii. 1 Peter 4:10-11  
      iv. 2 Timothy 1:6-7  
   c. First John 5:15 – “And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”
      i. John 14:13-14  
      ii. John 15:4-8  
   d. God’s will
      i. General Will  
      ii. Specific Will
Ephesians 3:8 – “To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

1. “very least” – *elachistotero* – literally the word means “leaster” or “more least”
   a. This word is a combination of:
      i. a comparison of Paul with others
      ii. and an adjective expressing the degree/quality
   b. It may be a play on Paul’s name – *paulos* means “little”
   c. Paul often recognized himself as being nothing, a nobody, yet empower by the great God to achieve a divine purpose. (2 Corinthians 12:11 – “I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.”)

2. God’s general will for Paul was to go to the Gentiles with the message

3. “Unsearchable” – *anexichniaistos* – means they cannot be traced out.
   a. Used by Job to describe God’s ways that cannot be known to man
   b. Romans 11:33 – “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”

4. “Riches” – *ploutos* – a word uniquely used by Paul to describe the inheritance, the life, the potential, the treasure – thus, *ploutos*, “riches” – in Christ. (Ephesians 1:7, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16)

Ephesians 3:9 -“and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things.”

1. “bring to light” or “make plain” – *photisai* – means “to shine” “to give light”.
   a. It is used in statements such as “I light up” or “I illumine” or “I make evident” or “I reveal”
b. A derivative meaning of this same word is found meaning “to teach” in the LXX (Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew/Aramaic Scriptures made beginning in 250 BC and continuing up until completed around 150 BC)

2. “everyone” -
3. “plan of the mystery” -
4. “hidden for ages” – *apo ton aionon* – “from the ages”
   a. not even known to angles, but only in the mind of God. (Colossians 1:26).
   b. “ages” – *aionon* – can mean ages or also the eons which are personified as angelic/spiritual powers that are mentioned in the very next verse.
5. “in God, who created all things” – This was God’s plan from the very beginning, even at the point of creation.
   a. Planned from the beginning – 1 Corinthians 2:7 – “But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.”
   b. Concealed from the beginning – Romans 16:25 – “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages.”

**Ephesians 3:10** -“so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

1. First Peter 1:12 – “It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”
2. Daniel 12:8-9 – “I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.”
Ephesians 3:11 - “This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Ephesians 3:12 - “in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.”

Ephesians 3:13 - “So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”