Something Big is Happening Here

Ephesians 3:1-10
Paul’s Arrest (Acts 21:17-36)

How we view and react to circumstances and situations is more important than the circumstances themselves.

Paul lived by faith...not by sight.
Genesis 12:3 ➔ Galatians 3:8

Something Big is Happening Here

1:15-23
Gentiles who professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ would be fellow heirs with the Jews who believed in Christ.

Blessed by God
Messiah would come
Saved by the Messiah
Receive the Holy Spirit

1:15-23
Something Big is Happening Here
Paul ~ made a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ by the grace of God

To take the gospel message to the Gentiles

To preach **vertically** about a relationship with God through His Son

To address the **horizontal** ~ how we live out the gospel and interact with fellow believers
Manifold Wisdom ~ ‘many-colored’

1:15-23 Something Big is Happening Here
‘The word translated manifold here is literally the many-colored wisdom of God. Why did the apostles choose this poetic adjective? We all have blue days and red hours of anger and passion and golden moments of glory and dark, somber valleys through which we must pass. And there are those lush, green pastures into which we sometimes are led. God’s love is manifest in all of these shades of life.
So when you go through a blue time, it is God’s love that you are learning. When you go through a dark and pressured time, the love of God is being manifested there. You may not see it, but God knows how to make it clear. Even the joyful times are manifestations of the many-colored wisdom of God.’

Ray Stedman
‘The apostle Paul is saying that God has put you up on the stage of history and that when you look up into the galleries and into those expensive boxes you are going to see the angelic powers of heaven, good and bad, because God is putting them in the graduate school to learn from you of His wisdom and glory.
In other words, God is going to display His glory to good angels and fallen angels who rebelled along with Lucifer or Satan as we know him today. He is going to display the wisdom of His plan to principalities through you as the church.’

Ligon Duncan
'The church thus becomes the University for Angels, and each saint a professor.'

Kenneth Wuest
Something big is happening here
Life isn’t about us
God never wastes anything ~ not even the tiniest tear falls without a purpose

1:15-23
Thinking a Little Deeper

‘Where in the Bible did God ever give someone an easy task?’

God puts all of us to the test so that we will be forced to trust Him.
Thinking a Little Deeper

‘God will never bring us to a place where we no longer need Him.’

Earthly prosperity tends to be no friend of spiritual growth

1:15-23
Open My Eyes Lord
‘We had a beautiful room, wonderful meals, and everything we needed was provided. We didn’t even need to pray and trust God.’

It is always easier to pray when we have an awareness of our own need.
Do not lose heart when hard times come.

Quiet ~ God at work.

Something BIG is happening here.