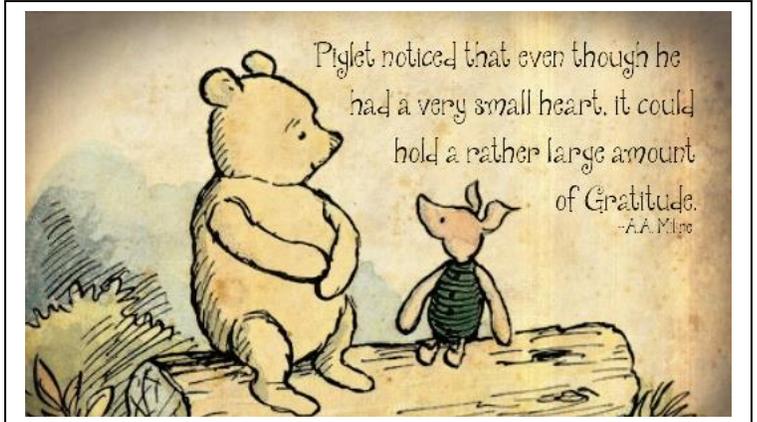


A community that is grateful Reading Psalm 65 & Philippians 4: 10-13 **study 8**

Thinking of community rather than self, what sort of things could or should the community of which we are part be grateful for? Perhaps you feel there is plenty to complain about, plenty that needs sorting out before we start talking about gratitude?

Read Philippians 4: 10-13



1. Paul opens our passage by confirming his pleasure that the Philippian church has had the opportunity to demonstrate their concern (gratitude for his ministry amongst them). Their message had been delayed in some way.

1a. For you, can you think of reasons or causes which might result in a delay in expressing gratitude?

1b. Does everyone appreciate 'a thank you'? Would you always thank even if you know this will make the giver feel awkward?

2. To appreciate the basis upon which Paul writes verses 11-12, see his outline of the cost of his ministry - read 2 Corinthians 11: 22-33. I suspect most of us are grateful that we have not been called to such a sacrifice. These verses are very challenging when we apply them to ourselves or our community.

2a. Paul writes 'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation'. Do we need to go through what Paul did to gain this wisdom? What is his 'secret'?

2b. What sort of connection, if any, is there between being grateful to God and being given strength?

2c. How do you think these verses are read and understood in countries where confessing a Christian faith risks persecution or worse?

3. Verse 13 – Is this applicable to us all? Or do you need some sort of qualification to obtain strength from God?

Read Psalm 65

4. Here the author of this psalm is expressing his gratitude; an example for us to follow.

4a. How many blessings are identified within this passage?

4b. Perhaps some prayers of gratitude would be appropriate

Gratitude turns what we have into enough! Thankful, Grateful, Blessed!