

THEOLOGY & *Doxology*



“You must not have
any other god but me”
(Exo. 20:3)



“For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

THEOLOGY & *Doxology*



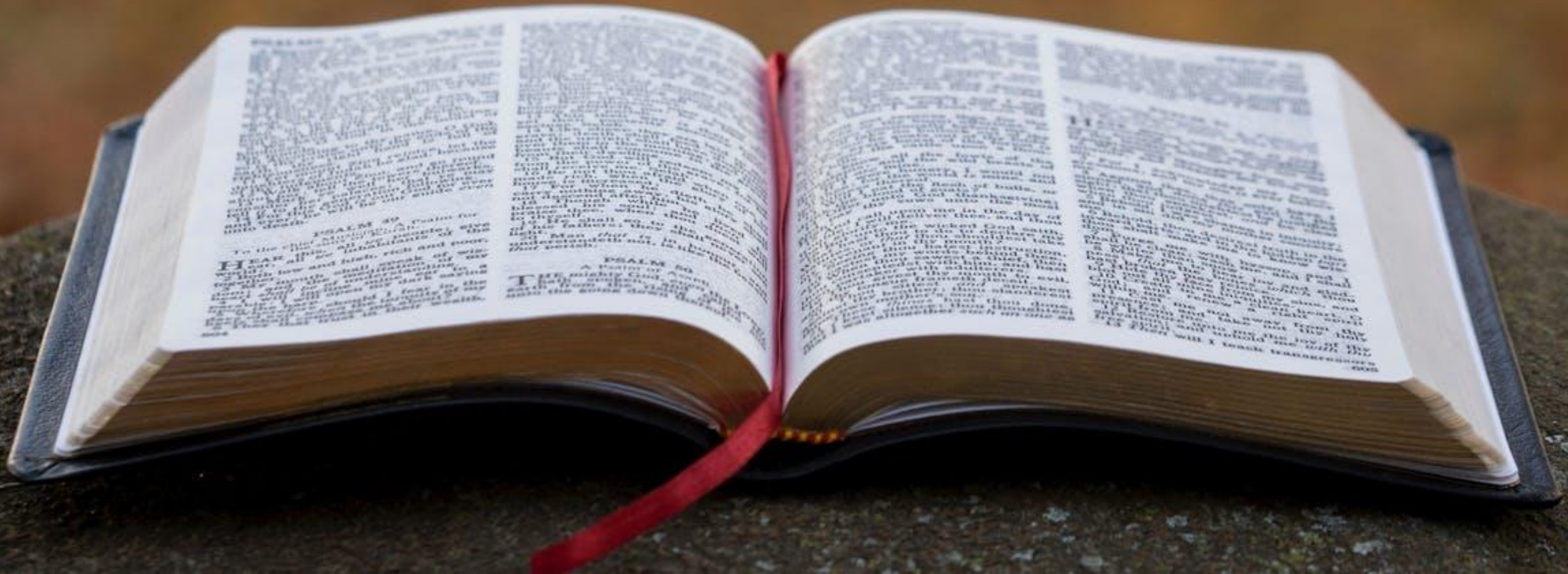
¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵ You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.”
(2 Timothy 3:16)



“were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God”
(2 Peter 1:21)



“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.
He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has
heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory
by telling you whatever he receives from me”
(John 16:13-14)



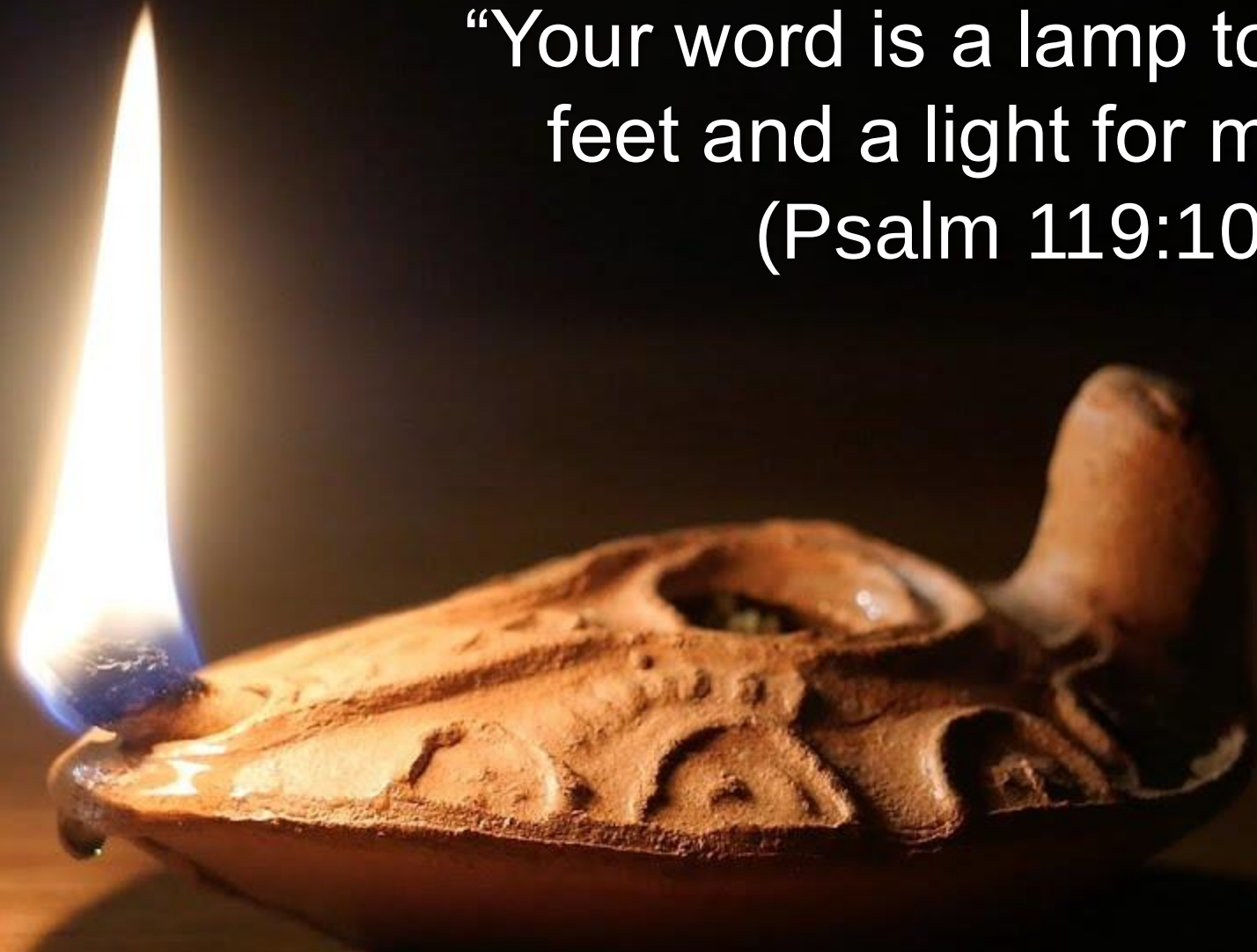
“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood,
and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation
that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.”
(2 Timothy 3:15)



“ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God.”
(Romans 1:20)



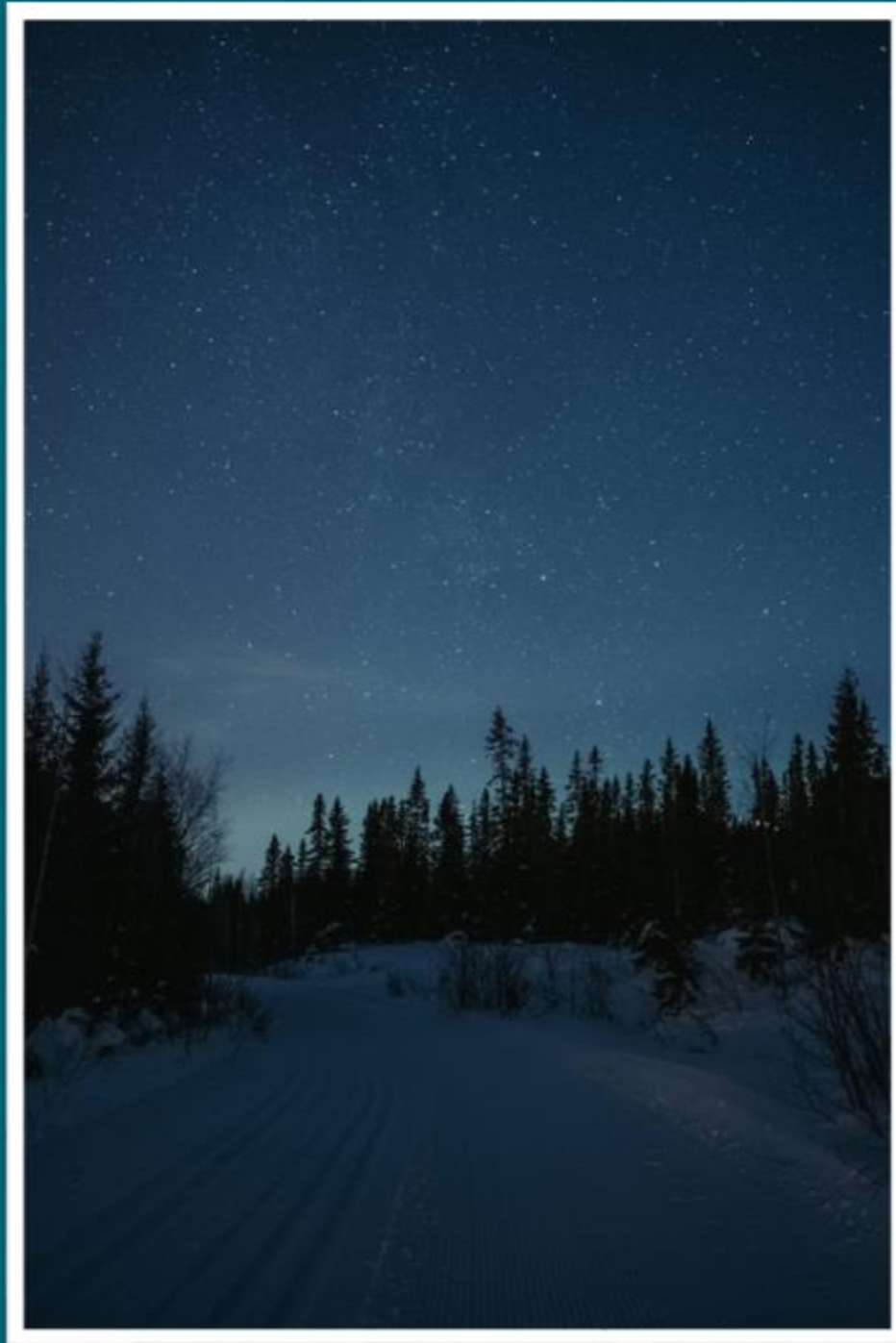
“Your word is a lamp to guide my
feet and a light for my path.”
(Psalm 119:105)



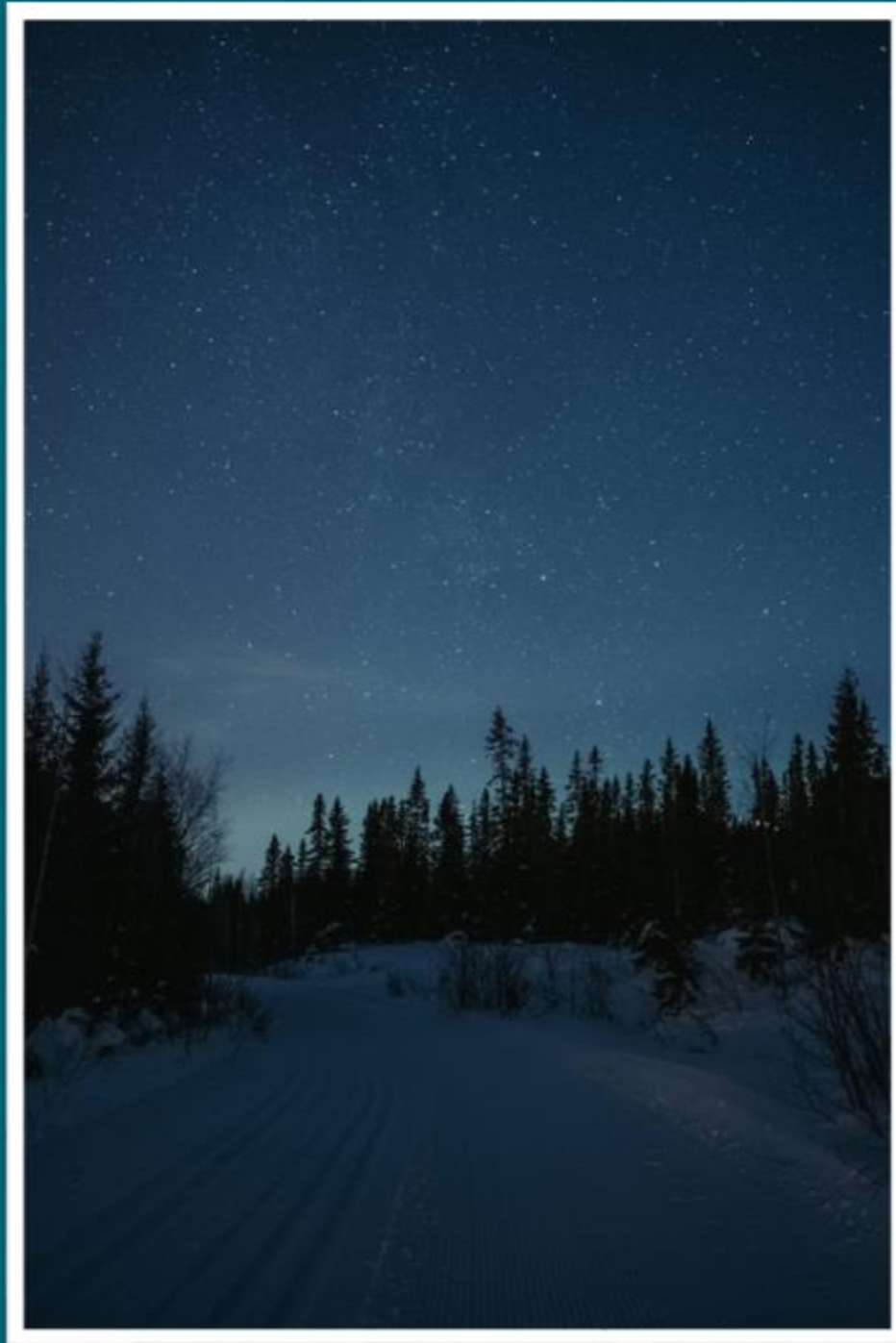
“useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work”
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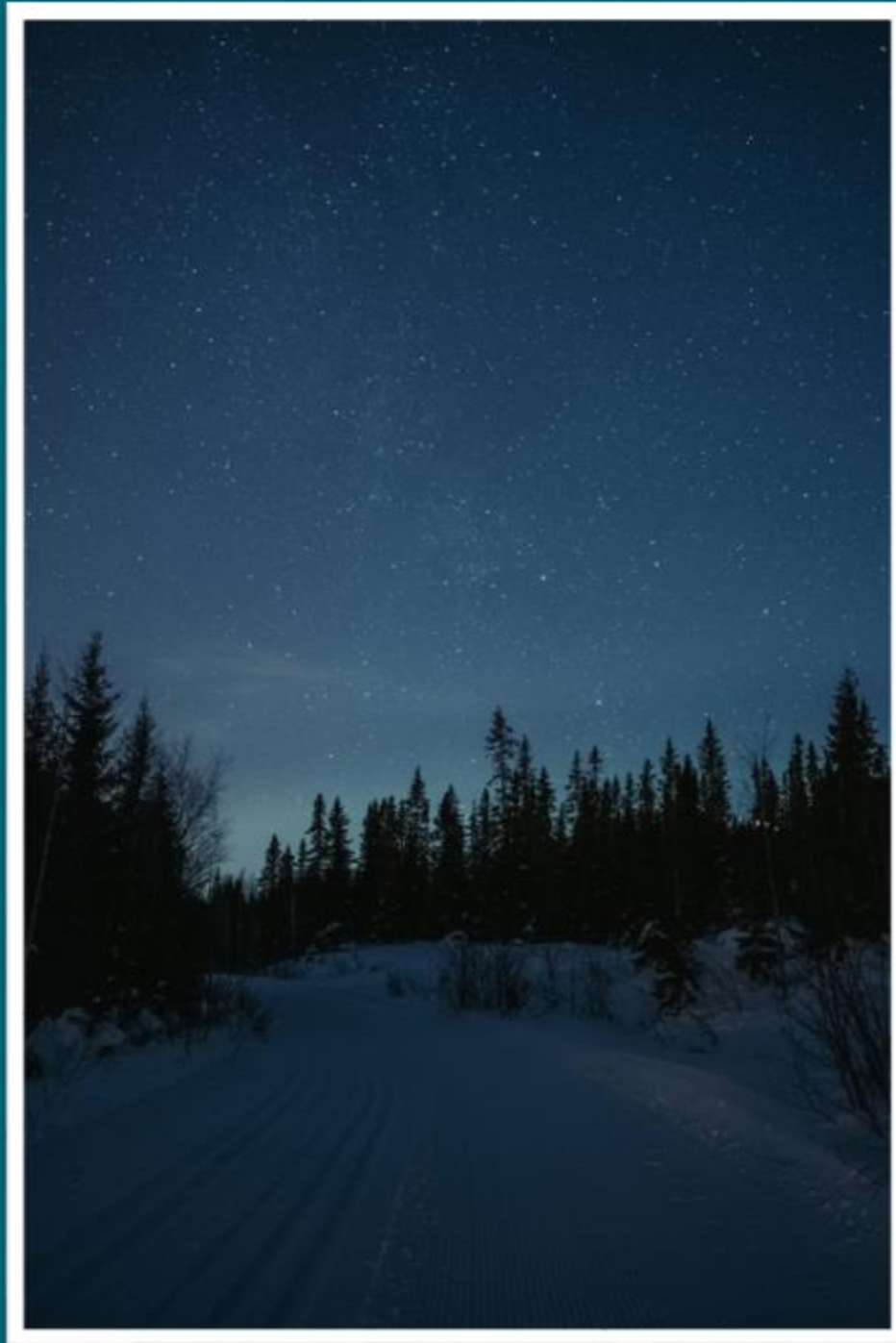
In post–World War Two Eastern Europe, Bibles were considered as dangerous as guns for the countries controlled by the Soviet Union. Either was always immediately confiscated, and the bearer instantly imprisoned as a subversive. For this reason, the borders between the Soviet Socialist Republics were ardently guarded against any contraband that might come in from the freer—for the time being—Eastern Block countries that the Soviet Union had been awarded control over after helping to defeat the Nazis and to prevent any who might want to escape through the Eastern Block to Western Europe.



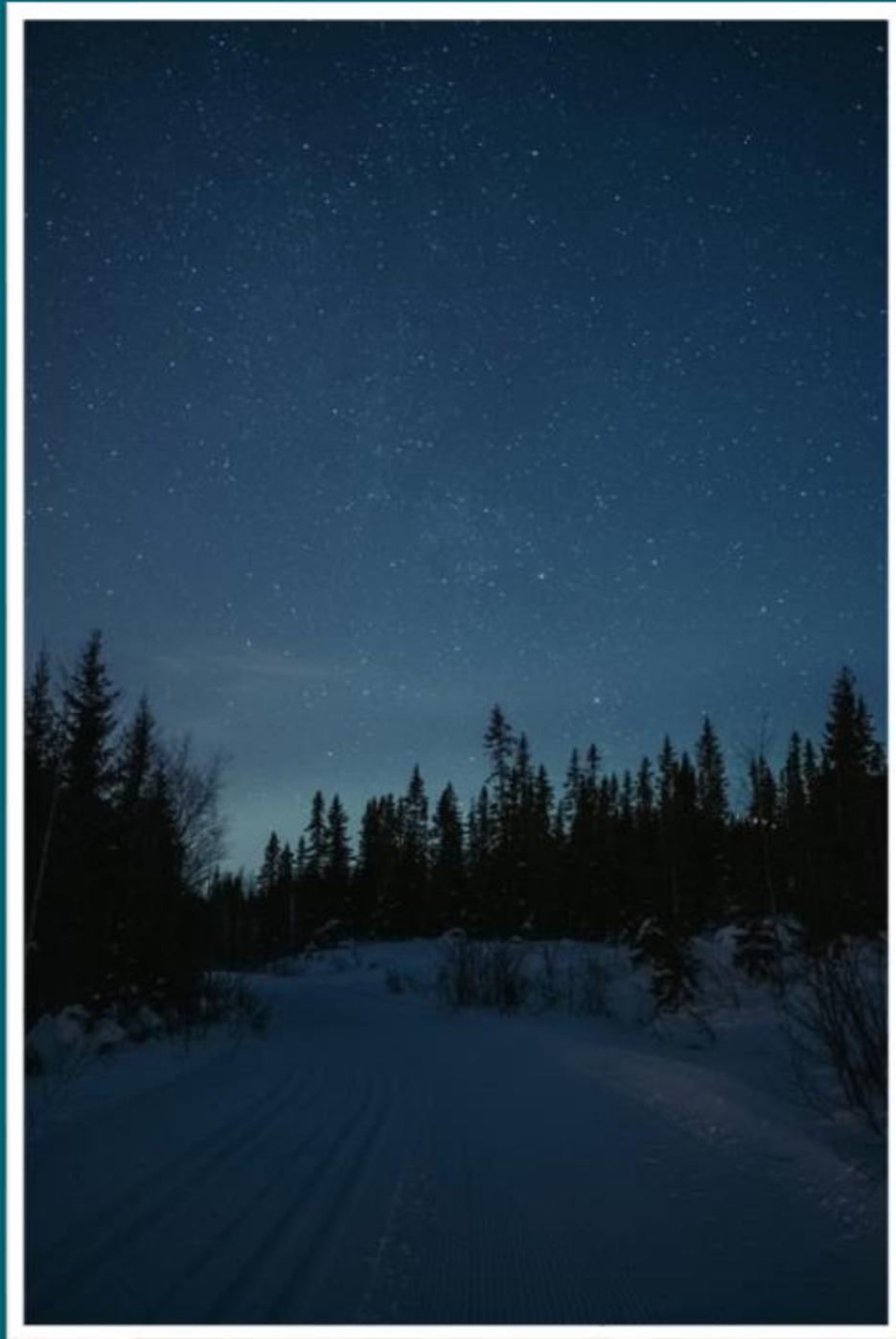
This cold winter night was no exception. Though the temperature was well below freezing, and several inches of new snow blanketed the hills, the Soviet guards were patrolling their usual routes. The sky was cloudy and there was no moon to be seen, so the soldiers traipsed through the snow with their flashlights shining in every direction.



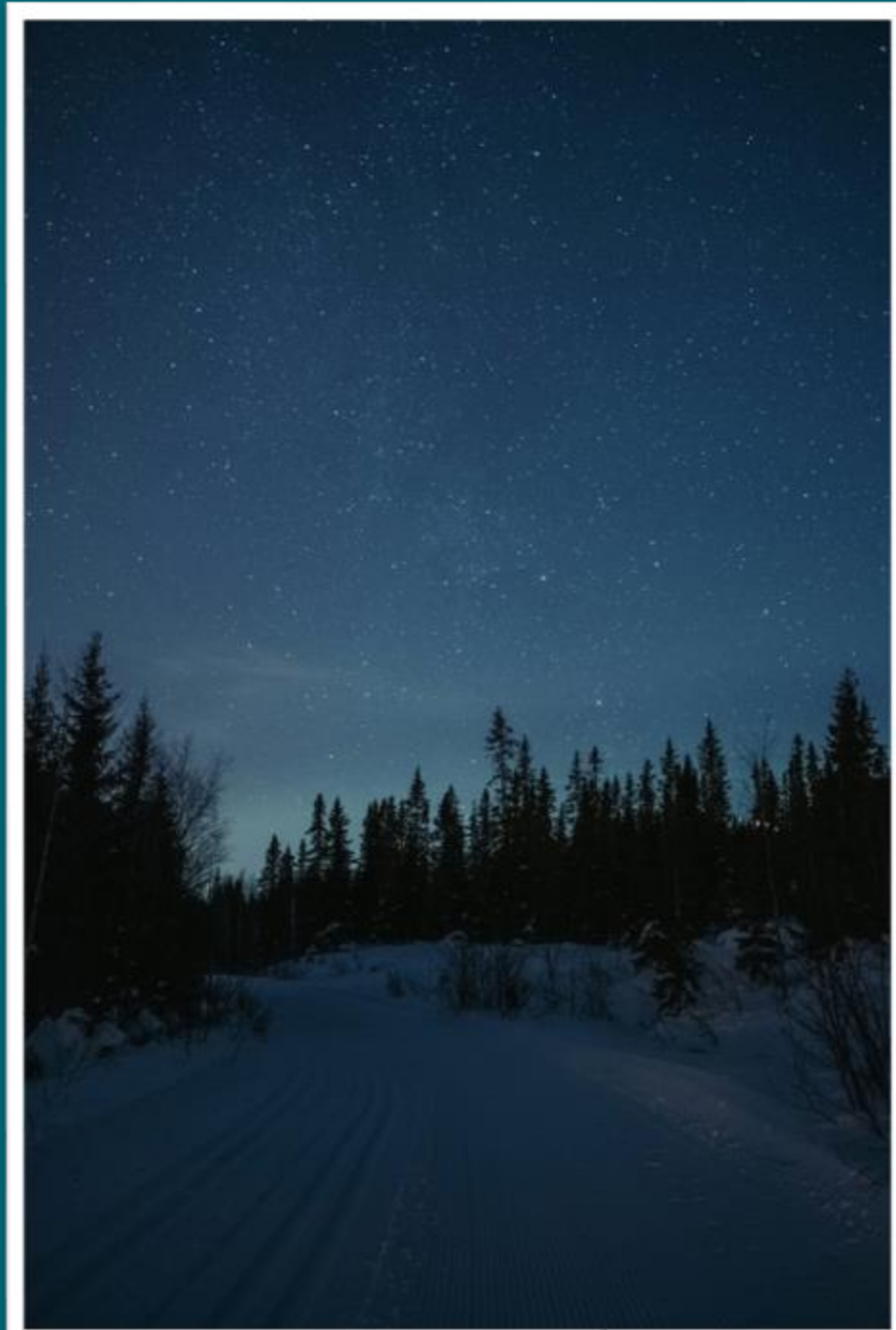
Suddenly a whistle broke the silence of the night, and a flare shot into the sky. From all over, the sounds of dogs and shouting converged on the spot where the signal had been given. When the others arrived the guard merely pointed to the snow. Four sets of footprints were making their way toward Romania! The guards rushed down the path hoping to catch the fugitives before they crossed the border.



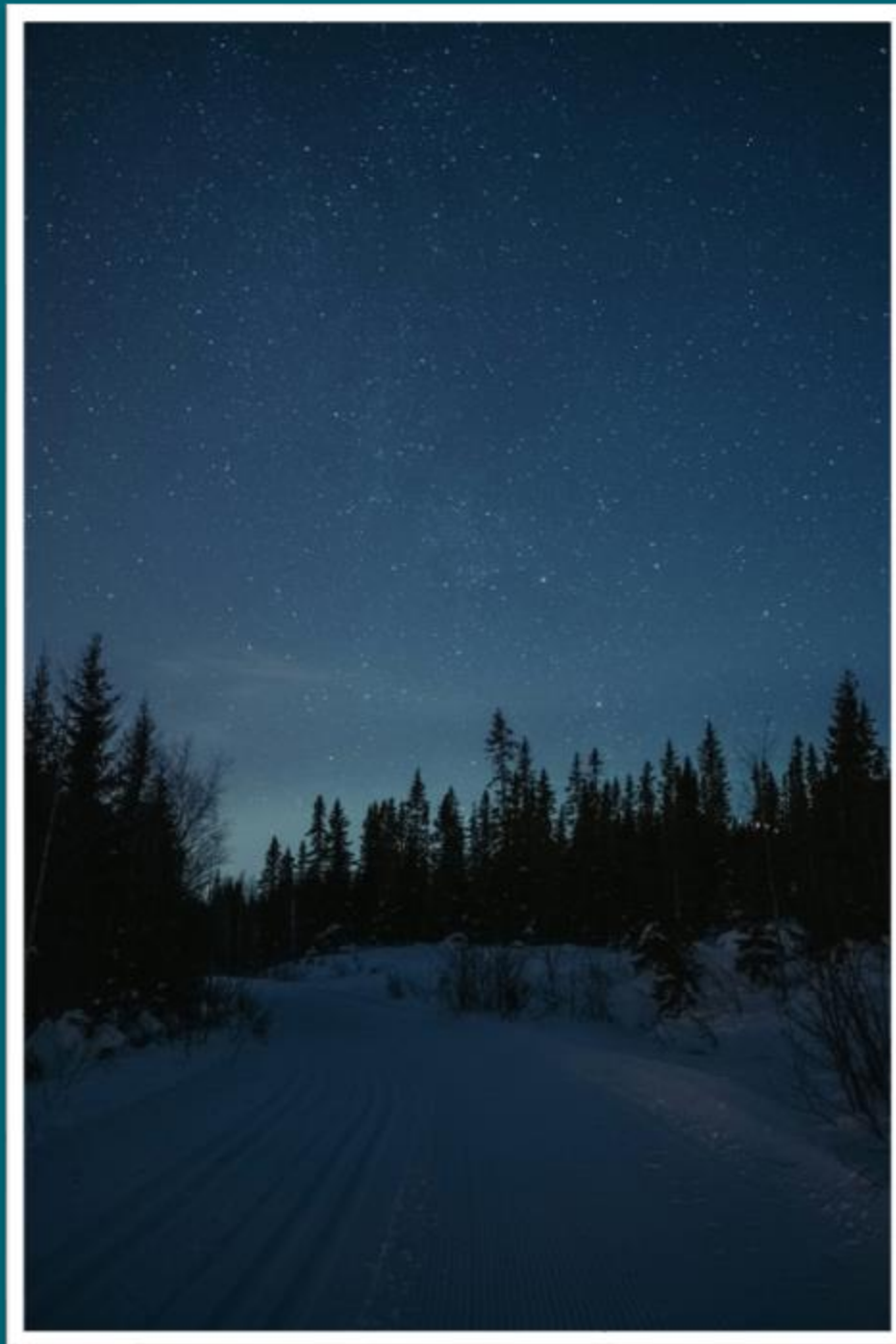
Some hours later the leader of the four Romanian Christians finished the story to the small congregation of the Ukrainian underground church with a laugh as they all held the Bibles he had given them in their hands. “Yes, comrades,” he said affectionately, using the word with a deeper meaning than any Communist Party member had ever used it, “we stood there like statues, frozen at the sound. Then slowly, the noises grew more and more distant...



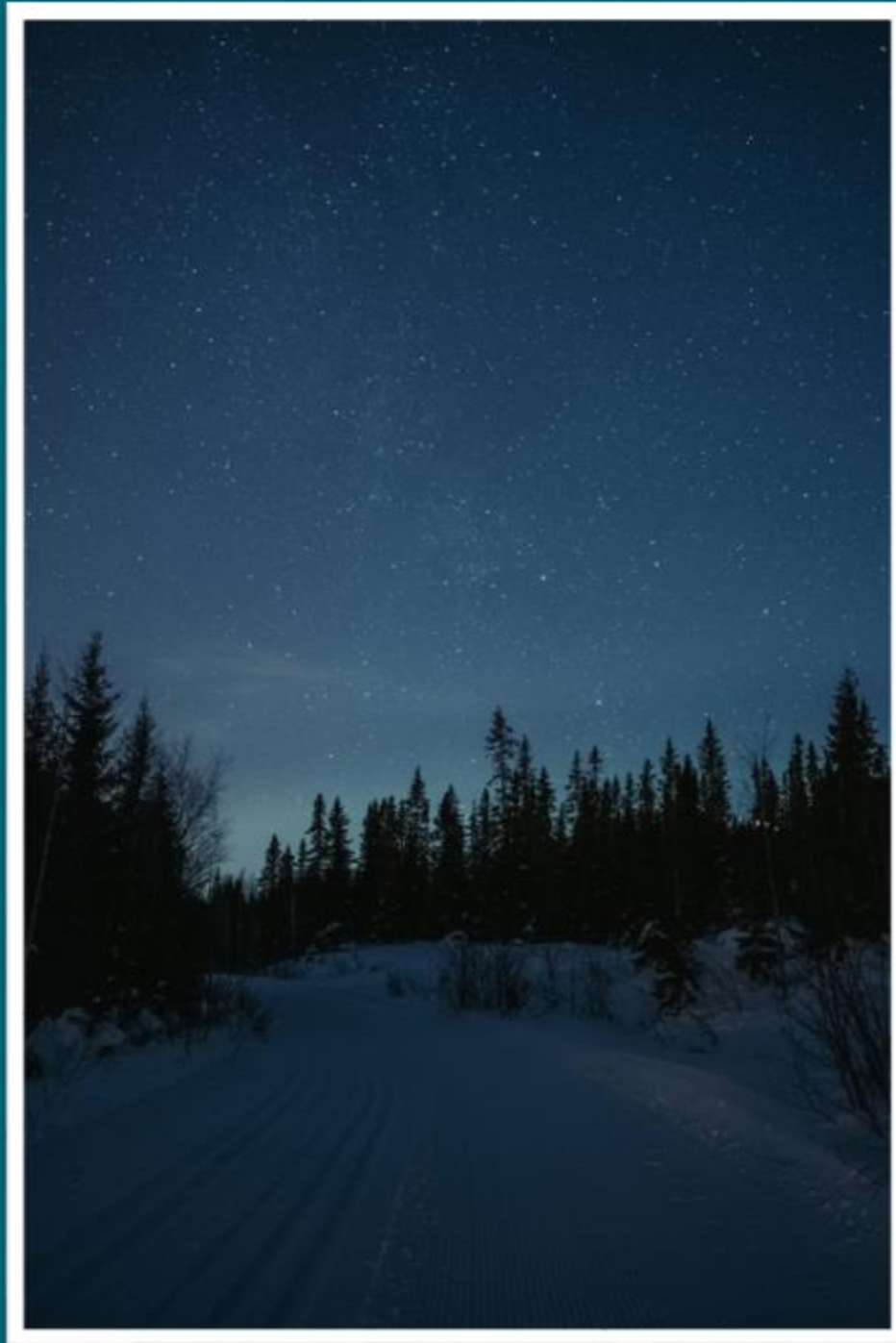
...And with our backs to the Ukraine, we continued walking backward through the snow, leaving footprints as if they were headed for Romania!” They all laughed at this with tears in their eyes, hugging their new Bibles with both arms.



The power of God's Word and the price that has been paid that we might have it can never be underestimated. In some countries today owning an entire Bible of one's own seems a dream beyond possibility. It is not uncommon that even an entire fellowship would not have an entire Bible among them. They might just have a few books, or even a single page to share. This they trade off to take home and study for a time, until it is someone else's turn to have the Scriptures.



And for this short time that they have His Word, they are in more danger than ever. If they are caught with it, they could be imprisoned or killed. Yet they gladly risk everything to read the letters God has written to them. The price of persecution is not too much to pay for the sake of knowing Jesus better.



“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you— don’t let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.”

(Psalm 119:9-16)