A Kind Of Bible: Vincent Van Gogh As Evangelist

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Van Gogh as a letter-writer. The letters: from conventional to personal. 2.1 The earliest letters. It can be assumed that Tersteeg was an important formative influence on Vincent, as well as on Theo a couple of years later. Theo started work in January 1873 at the Goupil branch in Brussels, and was transferred to The Hague in November 1874 (letter 15). For his career as an art dealer see exhib. cat. He increasingly peppered his letters with quotations from the Bible and other edifying books. He used the Bible as the measure for all things, the New Testament in particular. As early as June 1875 he first cited the words from St Paul’s second epistle to the Corinthians, which he quoted many times thereafter as if they were his personal motto: “sorrowful yet always rejoicing.”

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The collection also includes letters van Gogh wrote to his sister Wil and other relatives, as well as between artists such as Paul Gauguin, Anthon van Rappard and Émile Bernard. Vincent's sister-in-law and wife to his brother Theo, Johanna van Gogh-Bonger, spent many years after her husband's death in 1891 compiling the letters, which were first published in 1914. Arnold Pomerans, editor of a 1966 selection of the letters, wrote that Theo "was the kind of man who saved even the smallest scrap of paper", and it is to this trait that we owe the 663 letters from Vincent. By co Van Gogh painted it just after his father's death. He placed his own copy of Émile Zola's La joie de vivre next to it. That book was a kind of 'bible' for modern life. The books symbolize the different worldviews of Van Gogh and his father. Vincent described this work to Theo as 'a still life of an open, hence an off-white Bible, bound in leather, against a black background with a yellow-brown foreground, with an additional note of lemon yellow.' He wanted to show that the colour black could be effective. The brothers had previously discussed this question at leng