

The Value of a Soul #2 Realizing the Value of the Soul

In May, 1990, one hundred years after his death, one of Van Gogh's paintings (a portrait of Dr. Gachet), sold for a staggering \$82.5 million at Christie's in New York.

During his lifetime, Van Gogh was struggling, rejected, impoverished, and a mentally ill individual who had difficulty making a living. He was dependant on the charity of others, especially his brother.

In October 1888 he wrote perceptively to his brother Theo, "I cannot help it that my paintings do not sell. The time will come when people will see that they are worth more than the price of the paint."

He committed suicide at the site of his last painting, at the age of forty-seven, in July of 1890.

What a difference it would have made if he could have only received a fraction of the later value of his work while he was still alive.

Many do not realize the true value of their souls in this life. A time is coming, however, when they will be in no doubt. In that day, the Bible says that ". . . the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power . . ." (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

We have a choice in regard to our souls. We can respond in obedient faith to God's gracious offer of salvation through Jesus. We can have an abundant life now and spend all eternity enjoying the inestimable riches of heaven, or we can neglect our souls. We can spend our eternity rejected, spiritually impoverished, and banished from the presence of God forever.

How much do you value your soul? How much do you value the souls of others?