

FRENCH  
BURGUNDIAN 1480

SAINT PAUL

*Another interesting way*

I like this statue of Saint Paul because it expresses to me the triumph of Christianity. It appeals to my inner sense of aesthetic holiness. By that I mean the beauty of good reigning over evil and life over death. Held in his left hand is the open Bible which is the source of spiritual victory. It is not a closed book, but open that its light might shine in the world. Wherever it has shown victory, liberty and righteousness have followed. In his right hand is the two-edged sword touching the corner of the Bible and thus uniting symbol to source. Saint Paul himself said "The Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit..."<sup>\*</sup> This sword then guarantees the total, final and complete victory in that it does not merely win a war or defeat a government, but it conquers man himself; his soul. The sword is not held up for battle but down as a pilgrim would hold his staff; suggesting that his purpose of war is transcendent, and the place of battle is his earthly pilgrimage. It is not merely an earthly city he wishes to conquer but a city whose builder and maker is God that he desires to find. Even his eyes look not down nor around, but beyond. They seem to be secure and sober in the world and yet hoping and searching for the world to come.

<sup>\*</sup> HEB. 4:12

*Please supply a little more information as to which statue you write of. Maybe it is a full length human one, or a half length of torso.*