

The RSV says that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable" but they throw in the word "inspiration" in a few other places where it doesn't belong so it debases its meaning and makes the word inspiration mean sort of a general leadership(?) rather than what Christians have always understood it to mean that it is free from error.

In this verse actually it doesn't make any real difference whether you put the "is" where KJV puts it (and where RSV went back and put it) or where the ASV has it. Because, as I always say a text without a context is only a pretext!

If you want to find what the context of this is, you find that Paul is here congratulating Timothy where he writes, "and that from a child thou hast known the holy scripture which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus." Timothy was raised in a Jewish house. And we know without any question what books were accepted by the Jews in the time of Christ, and the inspired books of God, and they are in our OT. That's what Paul is talking about. He says, Timothy, from a child you've known the holy scriptures -- that is the OT -- which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Now he says, all this scripture, and he mean what he has just talked about -- the whole OT Timothy had been taught as a boy. He says, all this has been given by inspiration of God and is naturally also profitable. He's not trying to teach here that it's inspired. They all agreed on that! But ~~z~~ he is saying, since it is all inspired it is all profitable. It is all valuable. That was Paul's attitude.

What about Peter's attitude? 2 Pet. 1 - last verse of the chapter. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Peter says it was God who led in the writing of Scripture; it's not the will of man that produced what we have in Scripture.

In Mat. 5:18 Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled. By the Law he means the books of the OT. Not one jot -- that's the sohd, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Not one tittle -- that's the little mark that distinguishes some of the letters that look like each other. Not one of these tiny marks shall pass from the Law till all is fulfilled. What is there stands and is true, Jesus said.

To me the most striking verse of all as to the absolute dependability of Scripture is found in Lk. 24. It's not quite as obvious as these, but to me it's even stronger. You remember how Lk. 24 tells how when Jesus was raised from the dead two of his disciples are on the road to ~~Emmaus~~ Emmaus. As they walked a stranger drew near to them. They did not recognize Him. Verse 17 says, He said to them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another that ye walk and are sad?"