

the Bible tells us concerning the nature and extent of its own inspiration. By way of format let us consider what the Bible says concerning the *elements* included in the act of inspiration, and what it says concerning the *effects* resulting from the act of inspiration.

### **The Elements included in the Act of Inspiration**

1. The first element may be expressed as follows: all Scripture is God-breathed, i.e., has come from God's mouth. This element is found in 2 Tim 3:16. There we read. "*pasa graphe theopneustos kai ophelimos pros...*" there has been much controversy concerning the grammar of this verse, let us examine it in detail. The subject of the sentence is *graphe*, which means "something written." The English word "scripture" also means "something written," but it has come to mean in contemporary usage "the sacred writings of a religion," or "a body of writings considered as authoritative." As B. B. Warfield points out, however, *graphe* is used in the New Testament to denote "the sacred writings of the Old and New Testaments," or as we call them, "the Scriptures," not merely "something written," and certainly not "the sacred writings" of another religion. Since *graphe* is modified by the adjective *pasa*, whatever the verse is stating about *graphe*, it is stating about "all" or "every" sacred writing of the Old and New Testaments.

Following *graphe* there are two adjectives, the syntax of which has occasioned problems for translators. These adjectives are *theopneustos* and *ophelimos*. *Theopneustos* means "God-breathed" and *ophelimos* means "profitable" or "valuable" or "useful" or "beneficial." But what is the grammatical arrangement of these adjectives? Should the translation read (with both adjectives attributive): "All God-breathed and profitable Scripture (is) for teaching, etc."? Or should it read (with one adjective attributive and one predicate): "All God-breathed Scripture is profitable for teaching, etc."? Or should it read (with both adjectives predicate): "All Scripture (is) God-breathed and (is) profitable for teaching, etc."? The first translation is extremely awkward, since "profitable" is a word which seems to need completion ("profitable" for what purpose or end?), and the completion words, which follow in the prepositional phrases "for teaching," "for refutation of error," etc., are separated from the word "profitable" by the word "Scripture." The second translation, though possible, is in need of justification, since it makes one adjective attributive and the other predicate. The third translation, which renders both adjectives