

Anyone who doubts that this is central to Christianity should read the fundamental documents of early Christianity and see what attitude they take. Early Christian writers often spoke in such a way as would clearly indicate their attitude on this matter. A typical example is found in the words of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

This passage alone would prove that Paul had no doubt about the Bible. He maintained that all of it was given by inspiration of God. He declared that all of it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, and for correction. He was certain that all of it is true, since it is God's Word.

Nowadays there are many who consider this to be an unreasonable view. They point out that in other fields of thought books rapidly become out-of-date. A medical book of twenty years ago is outmoded today. No one would think of trying to learn chemistry or geology from a book written twenty years ago. Why then should this book, written nearly two thousand years ago, still be regarded as authoritative?