b.   Meaning of the Definition

In a practical way the definition means at least the
following aspects, and perhaps more that are not out-
lined at this time:

--The Scriptures include all the material needed
for knowing God, pleasing and serving Him.

---The Scriptures exclude what might be meaning-
less or so limited in context as to have no further
meaning. The Scriptures therefore are seen as
adequate and are not marked with superficiality.

--The words used, while being of the author's
choice and understanding, are kept from error in both
selection and connotation in the text. They are not
words forced on the author--they constitute the
writer's normal vocabulary but in his selection of
them the writer is guarded supernaturally against
erroneous terminology that might belie the truth.
This is an extremely important point and explains why
there is such diversity of syntax, grammar, and
vocabulary in the Bible. It also serves to caution
us about building doctrinal positions on vocabulary
selection.

--The ideas suggested by those words and the
implications behind them are of the same strength as
the words. The Bible does not speak in oracular fash-
ion. (This point must be guarded carefully...we do
not mean the ideas that we may conceive as being
behind the words but the word given ideas that are
actually involved in the framework of the text. This
distinction is difficult at times but the idea is
worth the temporary risk of someone confusing his own
thoughts with the text of Scripture.)

--The nature of inspiration, therefore, is
described as verbal, the words used are the approved
words of the Holy Spirit, and plenary, the words and
concepts all being certified as true. The older
definitions of inspiration often carried the words
"plenary and verbal" in the statement and these have
now been redefined to the concept of inerrant and
infallible.

--The primary relevance of this definition is to
the initial utterance..the primitive manuscripts..and
it will apply equally to all parts of that work. We
do think we have very good copies but the reality of
inspiration must not be conferred on the existing