

A Review of  
*The Voyage of Faith*  
by Frank Chesser  
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William Woodson

This latest book from Frank Chesser is a genuine stimulus to faith and love. At first, the title does not seem fit the main topic of the book-until one has read several chapters as treated by our author. Each chapter develops a theme concerning baptism: Chapter 2 Baptism is Faith Acknowledging the sovereignty God; Chapter 7 Baptism is Faith Obeying The Gospel; Chapter 18 Baptism is Faith on Its Way to Heaven. Eighteen chapters explore the relationship between baptism and its place in faith in stirring the Christian to grow and mature-The Voyage of Faith. While the writer strongly and clearly underscores the necessity of baptism for the remission of sin, the book is not is not a handbook of pro and con discussions of that vital subject.

Baptism, as set forth in this well written work, is presented as opening the heart of the recent convert to the growth/maturing dimensions of what is now to be occurring in light of a genuine baptism. Chesser answers the question: Now that I have been baptized for the remission of sins, what does this mean for me in my life with Christ? Well written chapters follow one after the other with ample biblical exposition and exhortation on this dimension, then another, and another in a series of concentric circles (changing the figure) rippling and rippling further and further outward in expansion of one's awareness of the meaning of baptism. It is so cleverly conceived and written that at first reading one can say, "Well, I surely see that!" and move on to the next; but two or three more chapters and the subtlety begins drawing one back again to the preceding chapters and sharpens the desire to get to the following ones. By no means a "mystery," the book nevertheless takes on something of this idea; as the pages turn, more of the fulness of the meaning of baptism becomes clear. The book is quite readable for all levels of readers, but by those giving the best attention the best insights will be gained.

Two other qualities of the book deserve careful attention. One, the writer, most obviously a serious and capable student of the Bible with great insights, fills each chapter with very relevant, clearly integrated quotations from the entire Bible as he develops each of these units of thought. For the beginner, this book will open windows for the view of what can, with learning from the master, become significant in each heart. Remarkably, as with good coach, Chesser shows the reader that a lifetime of Bible study on his part can become a more precious treasure for each reader. Chesser does not scold for not keeping up, but points to what can be and encourages by example to go on with the study. More experienced readers will find highly instructive insights from careful word pictures of well known and, often, more obscure Bible characters, and with skilful use of a few well chosen words calls to mind insights from earlier study now made fresh by an experienced writer.

The second quality is the vivid way Chesser pictures this insight, gives this admonition, shows this danger, upholds this virtue. Just two because of space limits: On prophecy: "Gospel arrows winging their way to the time of the Messiah are numerous in the preaching of Zechariah." On what sin is: "Sin is the purity of heart lying in a cluttered heap at the vile feet of pornography. Sin is the aborted youthful faith in the hands of a professor whose own faith is buried in the cemetery of modernism. Sin is the stench of sexual perversion rising from the graveyard of Sodom and Gomorrah to stake the claim of normalcy in a world of spiritual darkness. Sin is the silent, haunting scream of an innocent baby being butchered in the womb of its mother."

Good writer, good book, good insights, good to the last drop.