

A The purpose of the Law:

❖ Teaching us how to fear God. Deuteronomy 31:12.

- God commanded the Israelites to read the Law before all the people during the Feast of Tabernacles. There was a process to follow: HEAR => LEARN => FEAR.
- This was a simple learning system that let both children and adults learn about the beginning of wisdom: the fear of the Lord (Psalm 111:10).
- We do not have a natural tendency towards fearing God, we must learn to do so. Of course this fear must come with love.

❖ Testifying against us. Deuteronomy 31:26.

- Witnesses tell what they have heard and seen. The Law "tells" what it sees in us: our sin.
- The Law testifies AGAINST us (Romans 3:23). It reprimands our hearts, but it also leads us to the solution: Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26).

❖ Making us prosperous. Joshua 1:7.

- One of the most important functions of the Law is to make us prosperous. That is, that we may be successful in our enterprises.
- The Law teaches us how to live according to God's instructions. Therefore, God supports those who want to do His will in a special way (Deuteronomy 30:9-10; Psalm 1).
- Keeping the Law of God is part of Christian education. It is an essential part of living by faith and trusting God's grace (Revelation 14:12; James 2:10-12).

B Those who keep the Law:

❖ Their struggles. 2 Chronicles 31:21.

- Joshua and Hezekiah prospered because they obeyed God's Law. Nevertheless, other people who obeyed the Law did not share the same fate:
 - (1) John the Baptist. He was beheaded in prison
 - (2) Job. He lost everything he had
 - (3) Paul. He was flogged, incarcerated, shipwrecked...
 - (4) Others. They were stoned, sawn, killed by the sword...
- Those who keep the Law do not always prosper. After all, we live in a sinful world. Besides, the prince of this world is constantly fighting to keep us from prospering (Revelation 12:17; John 16:33).

❖ Their ideal. 1 John 2:6.

- How did Jesus relate to God's Law while He was living on Earth?
 - (1) He was obedient in everything (Philippians 2:8).
 - (2) He kept the Law since He was a child (Luke 2:51-52).
 - (3) He learnt from the Law (Hebrews 5:8).
 - (4) He obeyed the Law to please God (John 8:29).
 - (5) He delighted in obeying the Law (Psalm 40:8).
 - (6) He kept the Law for love's sake (John 15:10).
- It is obvious that we cannot keep the Law as perfectly as Jesus did. But we are called to "walk as He walked."
- Obeying the Law is a sign of our faith (James 2:17) and our love for Jesus (John 14:15).