



## **The Benefits of Obedience**

### **Deuteronomy 6:3-5**

*“Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:3-5—ESV).*

When we think about commandments, statutes, rules, and regulations, perhaps too often we think about the punishment we might receive if we break any of them and get caught; which is a negative misunderstanding. In fact, the LORD gave statutes, rules, and commandments to help us. God revealed moral laws in the Bible so life might go well with people. If we think back over our lives, we will probably be able to think of how things would have gone better if we had not done some of the bad things we did or if we had not failed to do some of the good things we could have done according to the Law of Love. For example, think about most of our traffic laws. Good governments have made traffic laws for our safety and convenience. Imagine the accidents and delays if there were no traffic lights. God gave laws so people could get the best use out of themselves. Some people break traffic laws consistently and may never “get caught,” but someday they may injure themselves or others and wish they had obeyed the law. Similarly, some people consistently break or ignore God’s moral laws (conveniently summed up as “love God and your neighbor” and in the Ten Commandments), but God gave these laws for our benefit and happiness. If we consider those we know or learn about, the most joyful and satisfied people habitually try to obey God’s laws, while some of the saddest people habitually break them.