Dear Shatin Tsung Tsiners,

I am taking this opportunity to share with you something I have learned from the life of Moses. He was the only servant in the Old Testament whom God saw face to face. Through Moses, God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments which they had to follow. Their Heavenly Father made it clear that they were to be blessed if they were obedient; whereas they were to be cursed if they were disobedient. They could choose between life and death. However, the rebellious and stiff-necked Israelites – Bible scholars believe as many as two million – rebelled and sinned against God time after time when wandering in the desert for forty years. Moses was their spiritual father and leader enforcing God’s laws among the people. He himself was also the perfect role model who did almost everything as commanded by God.

Maybe you don’t realize that the Ten Commandments are the foundation of all the legal systems of countries around the world. Take a look at these Hong Kong cases. Drink-driving is an offence as drivers who drink put people’s lives at risk. The technician who copied Edison’s “sex photos” committed the crime of stealing.

Now I want to compare the rules and regulations set by the school with God’s laws! What good do these rules bring to Tsung Tsin? Can students be set free without them? You definitely know the answer to this question. Being your teacher, I can derive the same principle – Tsung Tsiners are to be blessed if they are obedient; they are to be punished if they are disobedient.

Nevertheless, there are students who choose to breach school rules constantly. Say those who determine not to do their homework. Hence, they are asked to go to Strive-for-improvement Class regularly. Let me explain to you how a small group of “SIC goers” drain time and energy of teachers and staff. For example, when Chris Wong in S.2G does not hand in her homework again, Ms Chu marks it down in her record book; she goes to fill in a form in TRR (it must be done within 7 days); a teacher in TRR calls the parent and enters data into the computing system; she prints out the name list and seating plan for that day’s SIC. Ms Chu has to remind Chris to go to the class after school. If Chris doesn’t go, a Discipline teacher gets involved. When Chris’ SIC record under Ms Chu’s account mounts up to four times, a demerit point is issued by the Discipline Office. A clerk in the office has to send a letter to inform Chris’ parents about it. If Chris’ situation does not improve, she may be asked to stay until 6 pm. Even the janitor has to keep an eye on her. With other students like Chris, this cycle goes on and on…

Why can’t we have this system abolished? Then teachers and staff don’t have to suffer! Although it takes a lot of work to maintain law and order in a school, we teachers discipline students out of LOVE. We punish students not because we enjoy torturing you; we want you to learn to follow rules at school. When you grow up, you are more likely to become obedient citizens. At the same time, we must consider the well-being of the obedient majority. We must keep the school an orderly place for all the students to learn.

We teachers wish that we could throw away our record books which keep detailed records of your ‘missing homework’, ‘forgetting book’ and other minor offences. If it happened, we could spend more time caring for you and getting to know you.

You can surely make our dream come true only if you choose to obey; not to disobey! With God’s Law and the school rules, you know your wrongdoings or offences when you make mistakes. With the same Law and rules, you can guard yourself from behaving wrongly. I hope that you all choose to be obedient and then be blessed.

Miss Chu Fung Chu
Your English Teacher