Introduction:
A. Our Lord’s two-fold objective: Prepare us for next world and develop character in this world.
   1. The two go hand in hand - character produces hope. (v. 4; Jas. 1:12)
   2. The idea is “proven character” or character proven by experience. (comp. KJV/NKJ v. 2 & Phil. 2:22).
B. Our Lord’s character building program includes two basic parts:

Discussion:
I. Teaching (Tit. 2:11-13).
   A. Teaching that draws sinners to God. (John 6:44,45; Matt. 28:18-20).
   B. Teaching that shows Christians how to live in this present world.
      2. Positively -- “soberly, righteously, godly.”
   C. Teaching that give Christians hope for the future world. (Tit. 2:13; 1 Cor. 15)

II. Experience. (Rom. 5:2 KJV).
   A. The experience of patient obedient service and sacrifice builds character.
      1. Obeying difficult commands. (Heb. 11:17-19).
      2. Patiently teaching the wayward. (2 Tim. 2:24-36).
   B. The experience of patient endurance of life’s difficulties builds character.
      1. Patiently enduring “thorns in the flesh.” (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
         a. Takes more strength to take it than to retaliate.
         b. Get even by doing good to perpetrator. (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:20,21)
         c. Does not mean either approving or overlooking sin or extending him fellowship.
         d. May sometimes mean giving perpetrator the benefit of doubt - may not have intended harm.
      4. Patiently enduring church problems. (1 Cor. 11:19).

Conclusion:
A. As free moral agents, we can:
   1. Accept or reject the character building teaching.
   2. Profit or not from the character building experiences.
B. As Christians, we need to constantly build character to live successfully here prepare for hereafter.
C. As an alien sinner, are you ready to enter the Lord’s character building program?
D. As a backslider, are you ready to get back into the Lord’s character building program?