

Alma 2:1-7*Let your voices be heard*

- 1 We all have a special citizenship responsibility. As the Prophet Joseph Smith said, "It is our duty to concentrate all our influence to make popular that which is sound and good, and unpopular that which is unsound." We must elect men to public office with a mandate higher than the ballot box. Yes, read what the Lord has said on this important subject in the ninety-eighth section of the Doctrine and Covenants and then read what He has said regarding our inspired Constitution in the one hundred first section. The days ahead are sobering and challenging and will demand the best within each of us if we are to preserve our freedom.

Ezra Taft Benson, *The teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], 674.

- 2 In this election year we urge Church members *to register to vote*, to study the issues and candidates carefully and prayfully and then vote for those they believe will most nearly carry out their ideas of good government. Latter-day Saints are under special obligation to seek out and then uphold leaders who will act with integrity and are "wise," "Good," and "honest" (see Doctrine and Covenants 98:10).

Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, and James E. Faust, Priesthood Bulliten, 30 August 2002.

- 3 We need to remember Edmund Burke's statement: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We need to raise our voices with other concerned citizens throughout the world in opposition to current trends. We need to tell the sponsors of offensive media that we have had enough. We need to support programs and products that are positive and uplifting. Joining together with neighbors and friends who share our concerns, we can send a clear message to those responsible. The Internet Web sites and their local affiliates will have their addresses. Letters and e-mails have more effect that most people realize.

M Russell Ballard, (in Conference Report, Oct. 2003, 17; or *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 18).

Alma 2:8-10*Anger*

- 4 Anger is a yielding to Satan's influence by surrendering our self-control. It is the thought-sin that leads to hostile...behavior.... Unchecked, anger can quickly trigger an explosion of cruel words and other forms of...abuse.

Lynn G. Robbins, *Ensign*, May 1998, 80-81.

Alma 2:12*Self-defense*

- 5 Self-defense is as justifiable where war is concerned as where one man seeks to take the life of another, with the obvious conclusion that (from the standpoint of those called upon to engage in armed conflict) some wars are righteous and others are unrighteous. Righteous men are entitled, expected, and obligated to defend themselves; they must engage in battle when there is no other way to preserve their rights and freedoms and to protect their families, homes, land, and the truths of salvation which they have espoused.

In many wars, perhaps most, both sides are equally at fault and neither is justified. But there have been and yet will be wars in which the balances of eternal justice will show that one side had the favor of Diety and the other did not.

Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2d ed. [Salt Lake City:Bookcraft, 1966], 826.

- 6 There are ... two conditions which may justify a truly Christian man to enter—mind you, I say *enter*, *not begin*—a war: (1) an attempt to dominate and to deprive another of his free agency, and (2) loyalty to his country. Possibly there is a third, ...defense of a weaker nation that is being unjustly crushed by a strong, ruthless one.

David O. McKay, *Gospel Ideals*, p.287.

Alma 2:18, 28, 35

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The Lord's Battle Strategy: (And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.)

Safety can't be won by tanks and guns and airplanes and atomic bombs. There is only one place of safety and that is in the realm of the Almighty God that he gives to those who keep his commandments and listen to his voice.

Harold B. Lee, *Conference Report*, Oct. 1973, p. 160