

## The Alignment of the Commissions of Christ

One of the most exciting things this year has been in reference to the refinement of the most important nugget in “Christ’s Kingdom Commission,” the alignment of the Commissions of Christ and their obvious emphasis on discipling leaders:

1) **Matthew 28:19-20**, the Great Commission, only has **one main verb “disciple”** (all the rest are participles), and **one direct object “all the nations.”** The strategy to fulfill this overwhelming command is inherent within the Commission. As Griffith Thomas stated, “The Commission embraces whole nations rather than indicating individuals among them.” Since we are required by Christ to disciple whole nations, then such requires a strategy which would have to include the leaders of the nations. Thus, the question should be asked: **Since we are to disciple whole nations, where would it be most strategic to begin? What city should be specifically targeted?** Obviously, the **Capital city**, which logically leads us to the next Commission.

2) **Acts 1:8**, “*But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the end of the earth.*” What is “*Jerusalem*” in regard to the nation of Israel? The **Capital city!** “*Judea*” is the **region surrounding the Capital** and “*Samaria*” is the **next closest Capital**. Regarding “*the end of the earth*,” since Acts 1:8 is the outline for the book of Acts, we must ask: Where is Paul at the **end** of the book of Acts? He is in **Rome**, the **imperial Capital of the world** of Christ’s day! Thus **Rome** is “*the end of the earth*” of Acts 1:8 (especially since “*the end of the earth*” refers to world capitals in the Greek Old Testament). Therefore the many Capitals of Acts 1:8 should make it **the Capital Commission!** Thus follows the next question: Since we are to disciple whole nations (Mt. 28) and go to capitals (Acts 1:8); **Who are we to talk to when we arrive at the capital?** Might it be **the leaders?** That logically leads us to the next Commission.

3) **Acts 9:15** is where Saul is Commissioned by Christ to “*bear My name before Gentiles, Kings, and the children of Israel.*” Gentiles and Jews are everyone, but specifically leaders – “**Kings!**” Where will he find them? In a capital; so 15 of the 19 cities Paul evangelizes are capitals and the exceptions prove the rule. Since Paul understood and applied the strategic nature of his Commission and all Christ’s Commissions so that even his enemies accused him of being so effective that he “*turned the world upside down*” (Acts 17:6); **Do you think that Paul would have passed on his Commission to the Church in such a way that we couldn’t possibly miss the emphasis on leaders?** That logically leads us to the final Commission.

4) **I Timothy 2:1-4** is where God makes Paul’s Commission a first priority of the Church, in the book in which He sets up every relationship of the Church and specifically says (I Tim. 3:15-theme verse) that this book describes how we are to “*conduct*” ourselves “*in the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*” I Timothy 2:1-4 declares, “***I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men*** (Gentiles and Jews of Paul’s commission), ***kings***” (same word as his commission), “***and all who are in authority***” (doubly emphasizing leaders, making sure none are left out). How could greater emphasis on leaders be made? Then an additional personal motivation for the peace of the Church is added, “*so that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*” It becomes the final Commission with Crescendo as a threefold emphasis on the passion of God for their salvation is included, “***for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***” Thus we must understand and apply the strategic leadership alignment of **Christ’s Kingdom Commission** (logically they are one).