

## **Introduction: Henry's "good job" was a bad deal!**

### **Why do we make bad job decisions?**

*"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.'"*

James 4:13 (NASB)

- **The business plan included:**
  - He chooses his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He selects his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He limits his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He defines his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He projects his \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Problem:** The business plan excluded \_\_\_\_\_ !

*“Commit to the Lord, whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”*

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

*“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”*

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

**Summary:** Bad decisions about work flow from false assumptions.

*“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”*

James 4:14 (NIV)

**False Assumption #1:** Life is \_\_\_\_\_.

**False Assumption #2:** Life is \_\_\_\_\_.

## How Do We Make Good Decisions About Work?

*"Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."*

James 4:15-17 (NIV)

**Principle #1:** Make \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation for all decision making.  
James 4:15

**Principle #2:** Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of planning apart from God.  
James 4:16

**Principle #3:** Don't buy the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Upwardly mobile work opportunities are automatically the will of God.)

**Principle #4:** Act on your \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ dreams and impulses.  
James 4:17

**Conclusion:** A word of hope for those who have bought the lie and paid the price: ***“GOD WANTS TO RESTORE YOU!”***

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do our work decisions have such a significant impact on our relationships?
2. What are two common assumptions that lead to bad decisions regarding our work? Share a time or experience that verifies the reality of this truth.
3. From today’s study, what three guidelines would you give to someone who came to you for advice concerning a big job opportunity?
4. What aspect of this message/passage impacted you the most? Why? What practical application could this truth have in your life right now?