

**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

**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

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

Proverbs 16:9

**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

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

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

## How do we make good decisions about work?

<sup>15</sup> "Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

James 4:15-17

**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?