Your friend Steve has approached you with a major dilemma he is facing.

If someone had told him a few years ago that he would have such a summer choice, he would have probably laughed. But here he is with that choice – take an attractive chemical engineering coop position with a prominent company or spend time in Europe to better understand God’s heart for people of cultures vastly different from his own background. Two great opportunities!

The coop alternative is an integral part of an engineering student’s college experience. In his engineering college, over 75% of the students participate in either an internship or coop type of activity. Thus it almost goes without saying that such an option is seen as a critical component of an engineer’s education process. As the college advising brochure states:

*Internships and co-ops are the bridge between classwork and the professional practice of engineering. They provide opportunities to make connections between theory and the application of engineering principles, and to develop skills and workplace habits. Internships also lead to a stronger resume, provide professional networking opportunities, and generally result in more full-time employment opportunities upon graduation.*

From a more personal standpoint, a former chemical engineering student says:

My internship at ______ helped shape my career path by showing me how a real R & D center operates, which will eventually help me to decide whether or not I would like to go into research in the future. My advice for other chemical engineering students is to keep in mind that chemical engineering can be applied to many different applications. Try to get real experience in the field before graduation in order to decide which application you are most interested in pursuing.

What more could be said? Steve is a sophomore and would have the following summer after his junior year to spend on the coop. However, the downsides of this option are that such a delay would significantly reduce its value in directing Steve’s major options and he may want to engage in more than one coop opportunity.

Against this option, the choice to spend a summer in Europe is more difficult for Steve to place a easily measurable value on. He has been a member of the same student campus ministry organization as you since late in his freshman year. While he comes from a Christian home, this
involvement has significantly helped him grow in his faith. He was so impressed with the group’s mission that he keeps this in his billfold:

_____ is all about helping people grow closer to God for a lifetime. We don’t just want to teach you what the Bible says; we want to give every student an opportunity to experience Jesus in a real way. We want to help you see how your life fits into God’s plan so that you can serve him wherever he takes you. We’re not trying to fill pews on Sunday. We train leaders in Christ’s kingdom.

Steve has come to you as his friend and Christian mentor. You are a senior and also an engineering student. You have spent the last two summers actively engaged in Christian outreach missions.

As he states it, “Dan, I need your help. Obviously, you have faced this same question of how to use the few summers during college. I know what you chose. How did you make the decision?”

You respond, “Sure I could tell you how I made the decision. But, this has to be your decision. What I would suggest is that we use this situation as a reason to further study the Bible. I love this – I am going to make an assignment for you. Let’s meet at the union a week from today. In the meantime, your assignment is to summarize what you see as relevant insight from no more than 10 Biblical references. From those, we can then seek God’s help in your decision.”

Steve, “You’re on. Great idea!”

ASSIGNMENT

Develop the scriptural references that you would suggest for Steve in making his decision. Based on those references, outline your insight for Steve.
My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: