

February 21st – The Necessity of Hard Work

*“He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.”
(Prov. 10:4-5)*

Have you ever had one of those mornings where you’re nestled in your bed, dreaming a great dream, with the sound of a steady downpour falling on the roof? And then it happens – your alarm goes off! You’ve got a decision to make – you can lay there and continue to enjoy the warmth of a comfy bed, or you can get up and get to work. Those are the moments we want to listen to our flesh and just stay in bed, but we know that obligations demand that we rise and get to work.

In today’s verses, Solomon warns against laziness, while at the same time commending the value of hard work. Those who are lazy “become poor” and “cause shame.” I’m sure we’ve all known able-bodied people who refuse to work. They wait on their parents or the government to provide for their needs. In the process, they often have to beg from others just to supply their needs. That’s not to mention what laziness does to our reputation while bringing shame to our families.

Solomon reminds us that “the hand of the diligent makes rich.” Of course, we know it’s not the goal of the Christian life to get rich. In fact, service to God might often impoverish us, but it’s in those times we learn there is much more to being rich than monetary wealth. Yet, work enables us to provide for our needs and it demonstrates our wisdom. Those who work hard are able to lay aside resources that can be used in the future. As Christ-followers, let’s commit ourselves to work hard each day for God’s glory.