



get wisdom | fool town
a seven mile preaching series in Proverbs

Boston, our town, is one smart city.

We do learning and knowledge and academia really well.

In a sense, you could call Boston America's ultimate college town. Most college towns get that name because a single university dominates the city's life, like in Happy Valley, South Bend or Amherst. But in Boston... there are nearly 100 colleges in and around the Hub. Liberal arts schools, business schools, teaching hospitals, research centers, institutes of technology, you name it, we got it. We are a college town with a capital C and a capital T.

People from all over the globe come to Boston to learn. Boston's population swells every academic semester from about five to about seven hundred thousand. At any given time $\frac{1}{4}$ of our city is sitting at desks, reading in libraries, studying books, writing papers. Literally, the world is coming here to get wisdom.

When graduation day comes, lots of those folks return home, but many stay and make Boston their home. That means that we sport one of the most educated populations of any city in the world. Graduate degrees are like T-passes around here. Every body's got one.

And it's not just the college scene... this whole place is big on learning. Boston is home to the oldest public school district in these United States. Our commonwealth will spend over 8 billion dollars on elementary and secondary education this year.

No city has more people with more knowledge, spends more money with more programs on learning, than ours. Boston is a smart town.

And yet Boston is also a Fool Town.

With all of our learning, all of our degrees, all of our knowledge, we still lack wisdom.

And that is because we, as a city, as a culture, refuse to come humbly and attentively to God saying, “You teach us what wisdom is. You teach us what it means to live wisely. You teach us what it means to live in step with your brilliant intentions for human life. You.”

Instead, we set ourselves up as little gods who are smarter than our Creator. We convince ourselves that we are wise. We can decide what is wise and foolish, right and wrong, desirable and contemptible.

We try to get wisdom without starting with God, and a city of scholars ends up a town of fools.

At Seven Mile Road, we are trying to break out of the well-worn Boston path of folly and walk a wiser one.

We ache for the blessing of God, and want to do life in a way that creates space for that blessing. We want to be a community that lives wisely, as God defines wise, in the midst of and for the good of Fool Town.

And so we'll be preaching through the brilliant Biblical book of Proverbs, contrasting Boston's folly with God's wisdom, and seeking to allow Jesus' Gospel to drive toward the latter.

We would love to have you hit the Road with us in this season as we seek to **Get Wisdom in Fool Town...**

Intr **Get Wisdom**
in Fool Town

5 Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget,
and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight. 2:5,7

#1 **Fools Hate Discipline**
Wisdom Loves Correction

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights. 3:11-12

#2 **Fools Love Scamming**
Wisdom Lives Honestly

A false balance is an abomination to the Lord,
but a just weight is his delight. 11:1
Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward
his mouth will be full of gravel. 20: 17

#3 **Fools Leave God Out**
Wisdom Begins and Ends with God

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. 1:7
Get wisdom, then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God. 2:5

#4 **Fools Get Lit**
Wisdom Feasts, but Rightly

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,
and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. 20:1
Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man;
he who loves wine and oil will not be rich. 21:17

#5 Fools Forget or Trample the Poor
Wisdom Remembers and Cares For Them

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. 1:7
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. 1:7

#6 Fools Love The Mirror
Wisdom Embraces Humility

When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with the humble is wisdom. 11:2
Before destruction a man's heart is haughty,
but humility comes before honor. 18:12

#7 Fools Run Off At The Mouth
Wisdom Uses Words Well

A fool gives full vent to his spirit,
but a wise man quietly holds it back. 29:11
Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him. 29:20

#8 Fools Go It Alone
Wisdom Goes Deep With Others

For by wise guidance you can wage your war,
and in abundance of counselors there is victory. 24:6
Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy. 27:6

#9 Fools Ignore Providence
Wisdom Gets and Trusts God's Sovereignty

The heart of man plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps. 16:9
The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the Lord. 16:33

#10 Fools Self Justify

Wisdom Knows Its Sin

There are those who are clean in their own eyes
but are not washed of their filth. 30:12
Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure;
I am cleansed from my sin"? 20:9

#11 Fools Mismanage Their Wealth

Wisdom Gives Generously and Wisely

Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine. 3:9-10

#12 Fools Wear The Couch Out

Wisdom Breaks a Sweat

How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep? 6:9
In all toil there is profit,
but mere talk tends only to poverty. 14:23

#13 Fools Don't Cherish A Wife

Wisdom Celebrates Femininity

An excellent wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels. 31:10
Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land. 31:23

#14 Fools Commit Adultery

Wisdom Pursues Sexual Purity

For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword. 5:3-4

#15 Fools Govern Corruptly
Wisdom Leads Justly

When the wicked come to power, people hide,
but when they are destroyed, the righteous flourish. 28:28
By justice a king brings stability to a land,
but a man who demands contributions demolishes it. 29:4

#16 Fools Minimize Children
Wisdom Loves a Crowded Mud Room

Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean,
but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox. 14:4
A wise son makes a glad father,
but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. 10:1

#17 Fools Assault The Unborn
Wisdom Defends the Defenseless

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.
Rescue those who are being taken away to death;
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.
If you say, "Behold, we did not know this,"
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? 24:10-12

#18 Fools Rush In
Wisdom Acts With Patience

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. 21:5
Zeal without knowledge is not good,
and whoever acts hastily misses his way. 19:2

#19 Fools Deny The Reality of God
Wisdom Fears God

The fool says in his heart,
"There is no God." 53:1