Sin Is No Joke
2 Chronicles 36:14-21

Introduction:
A. The text records the attitude of Judah just before the Babylonian captivity.
   1. Included the attitudes of the king (Zedekiah), the priests and the people (vv. 12-14).
   2. When confronted by God’s messengers, they mocked (“to joke, jest, to make jokes” - Brown-Driver-Briggs).

B. Sins and sincere efforts to correct it are often treated as a joke – but, it is no joke.
C. No aspect of sin is a joke.

Discussion:
I. The Nature of Sin Is No Joke.
   A. It’s description by Peter (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
   B. It is to transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4)
   C. It is to neglect doing the good one knows to do (Jas. 4:17).
   D. It is to engage in doubtful practices (Rom. 14:22-23).
   E. It is to act presumptuously (Psa. 19:13; 2 Pet. 2:10).

II. The Effect of Sin is No Joke.
   A. It separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2).
      1. Causing spiritual death now (Eph. 2:1)
      2. Causing eternal death after physical death (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8)
   B. It may adversely affects others (Ex. 20:5; 1 Cor. 5:6; Matt. 18:7)
   C. It hardens one’s heart (Heb. 3:13; 2 Pet. 2:14).

III. The Correction of Sin is No Joke.
   A. The common approaches to sin.
      1. Deny guilt.
      2. Only admit guilt.
      3. Admit sin, but either justify or glorify it.
      4. Admit sin, but minimize the seriousness of it.
      5. Admit sin, but generalize it – “So, what, everyone does.”
   B. The correct approaches to sin.
      1. All sinners must repent – turn from sin (Acts 17:30)
         a. True repentance is prompted by godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:8-10)
         b. True repentance is followed by reformation. (Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
      3. Erring Christians must repent and pray (Acts 8:22)

Conclusion:
B. Don’t mistake the patience for approval.