

Why Is The House Of God Forsaken?

Neh. 13:11

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah's work.
 - 1. Cupbearer to Persian King – appointed Governor of Judea.
 - 2. Rebuilds walls of Jerusalem (444 BC; 92 years after return; 72 years after temple complete)
 - 3. Returns again to Jerusalem (432 BC)
 - 4. Finds deplorable condition in the house of God (temple).
- B. Nehemiah's question (Neh. 13:11)
 - 1. Israel had broken her covenant (10:39).
 - 2. Chapter 13 describes some contributing *factors* to this terrible condition.
 - 3. Similar factors today will result in God's house (church) being forsaken.

Discussion:

I. A Compromised House.

- A. Eliashib's unholy alliance with Tobiah, the Ammonite. (vv. 4-8, cf. 4:3).
 - 1. Tobiah allowed to live in temple.
 - 2. Tobiah, being an Ammonite, had no business in the temple. (v. 1).
- B. We must avoid alliances and compromises. (2 John 9-11; Eph. 5:11; Gal. 5:2)

II. An Abused Treasury.

- A. Tobiah was living where treasury had been. (vv. 4,5,8-10)
- B. We must avoid abuses of the Lord's treasury today.
 - 1. Be careful about what is put into the treasury. (cf. 1 Cor. 16:2)
 - 2. Be careful about what is taken out of the treasury.
 - a. See that it is not misused.
 - b. See that it is used – preachers (1 Cor. 9:13,14), needy saints (1 Cor. 16:1), etc.

III. A Profaned Sabbath.

- A. Business as usual on Sabbath. (vv. 15-22).
- B. Business as usual on the Lord's Day?
 - 1. Day for assembling for worship. (Acts 20:7; cf 1 Cor. 16:2).
 - 2. Do profane it by choosing to do other things when saints assemble?

IV. Pagan Marriages.

- A. They, like Solomon, became corrupted as result of this. (v. 23-27).
- B. We should encourage Christians to marry only Christians.
 - 1. It may not be a sin, but it is extremely unwise.
 - 2. Try this:
 - a. Make a list of all the good reasons for marrying a faithful Christian.
 - b. Make another list of all the good reasons for not marrying a faithful Christian.

V. A Defiled Priesthood (v. 29-30).

- A. The Levites were priests then, all Christians are priests now. (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6).
- B. We defile the priesthood when we defile ourselves.
 - 1. As individuals, we are to keep ourselves undefiled. (Jas. 1:27).
 - 2. As a church, we are to keep the ourselves undefiled. (Eph. 5:27).

Conclusion:

- A. Why was the house of God forsaken in Nehemiah's day?
- B. Why is the house of God forsaken today?
- C. Let us avoid the mistakes of Israel, to assure that the house of God will not be forsaken today.