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)
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.