

Staying True

1. A recent Ray Morgan poll¹ showed that by the end of 2020, just over half (53.4%) of Australians said they belonged to a religion. This is down from almost three-quarters of the population (73.2%) in 2003. Do you think this is a temporary or more permanent falling away? Why is it happening?
2. After the walls had been rebuilt, the city populated, the people confessed and dedicating themselves to follow God's law Nehemiah left Jerusalem and returned to his role with King Artaxerxes. Read Nehemiah 13. What happens next?
3. Why was Nehemiah so angry regarding Eliashib allowing Tobiah to live in the temple storeroom (13:4-5)?
4. Was does having Tobiah, an enemy of God, live in His temple, say about maintaining holiness or purity?
5. How important did Jesus see temple purity (see Mark 11:15-18)?
6. How important is it for us to maintain purity (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)?
7. What was the source of the conflict verse 10? How does the issue in verses 10 and 11 directly contradict the promise Israel made to God in Nehemiah 10:39?
8. In what ways do we neglect the house of God?
9. Israel also violated the Mosaic Law regarding their observances of the Sabbath and the intermarrying with other nations. How does Nehemiah respond to these violations?
10. What violations of God's law do you see? How should God's people appropriately "stand up" for what God says is right and true?
11. What can we learn from Israel's "backsliding" after experiencing such great revival? What warnings must we take away? What do we need to covenant?

¹ <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/8664-religion-in-australia-march-2020-202103220545>