Thesis: To stress the danger of forgetting important spiritual matters.

1. I was at vocational school and standing in line waiting to get some breakfast from the cafeteria when I saw it. There was a skyscraper billowing smoke and rumors of a drunk pilot flying a 747 into it. Little did I know what would happen as the day went on. It was Tuesday September 11, 2001.

2. As we recently marked yet another anniversary of this tragic event, I am reminded of how easy it is to forget. Recount the patriotism and emotions of the nation. Soon it began to taper off.

3. Important dates are often fogged over by time. We forget about important news stories and events. It is easy to forget things.

4. Sometimes it is dangerous to forget. There are something’s we should never forget. With this sermon, let’s look at two things, Times when God’s people forgot and Things God’s people should never forget.

I. Times When God’s People Forgot.
   A. The Israelites forgot how they left Egypt.
      1. God through Moses led Israel from Egypt by a mighty hand. He knew Pharaoh would not let them go if He did not (Ex 3:19).
         a. Through ten consecutive plagues God proved His power and might to Pharaoh and the Israelites (Ex 13:3).
         b. When they were finally released God parted the Red Sea allowing them to pass through on dry ground and later drowned the Egyptian army (Ex 14:29-31).
      2. Three days later, the people begin to complain (Ex 15:22-27).
         a. The complaining continued and they longed for Egypt (Ex 16:1-3; 17:1-6).
      3. The power of God was fresh in their minds. However, their hunger and thirst blurred their memory of slavery and they forgot about their deliverance from Egypt by the mighty hand of God.
         a. God never wanted them to forget their rebellious spirit (Dt 9:6-7).
         b. The reason (Dt 9:4-5).
   B. The Israelites forgot crossing the Jordan.
      1. Before Israel was able to enter into Canaan, one thing stood in their way, crossing the Jordan River.
2. The priest went before the people carrying the Ark of the Covenant.  
   a. As they entered the Jordan, the waters were withheld and they crossed over on dry ground (Jos 3:14-17).
3. God commanded 12 stones be taken from the river bed and placed on the opposite side of the river as a memorial (Jos 4:1-6).  
   a. This would serve as a reminder of the miraculous way they crossed the Jordan. Proof God was with them.
4. Many years later after they conquered the land and Joshua died, the nation forgot about this important time (Jud 2:11-15).

C. Solomon forgot the word of the Lord.  
   1. Solomon was the wisest man on earth (1 Ki 4:29-34).  
      a. God’s people prospered greatly during his reign.
   2. Being king had responsibilities (Dt 17:18-20).
   3. Solomon was encouraged to faithfully follow God.  
      a. His father David warned him (1 Ki 2:3-4).
      b. Warned by God (1 Ki 9:4-5).
   4. Unfortunately when Solomon was old he departed from the Lord (1 Ki 11:4-8).  
      a. The consequences were devastating (1 Ki 11:9). The door to idolatry was opened wide.
      b. The effects of his sin were still visible nearly 300 years later (2 Ki 23:13).

II. Thing’s God’s People Should Never Forget.  
   A. We should never forget what Christ did for us.  
      1. The death of Christ is the most important moment in the history of the world. No other event has ever had even close to the same effect.
      2. Christ’s death is important for those who have accepted it.  
         a. It brought forgiveness and redemption (Col 1:13-14).  
         b. It brought reconciliation with God (Col 1:19-20).  
         c. It removed the condemnation of sin (Rom 8:1).  
         d. It freed us from our sins (Rev 1:5).
      3. We must also remember His life (1 Pt 2:21-25).  
         a. His example in love (Jn 13:34-35).  
         b. His example in service (Jn 13:15).  
         c. His example in forgiveness (Lk 23:34).
      4. Every week there is an opportunity to remember it in a special way (1 Cor 11:23-32).
   
   B. We should never forget where we were.  
      1. Our past is important. Where you were (Eph 2:1-2; Dt 5:15).
      2. When you forget the past.  
         a. You will lose sight of the importance of evangelism. Souls are lost are you convinced they need to be saved like you?
b. The importance of the church (Mt 16:18; Acts 20:28).
c. The Lord’s sacrifice (Col 1:13-14).

3. We must ever be thankful (Col 3:15).

C. We should never forget God’s word.
   1. God has always intended His word to be taught and understood by His people.
      a. The Law was read publicly every seven years (Dt 31:10-13).
      b. Col 1:6, 4:16; 1 Th 5:27; Rom 10:17.
   2. Just as Solomon forgot God’s word, it is possible for you to forget also.
   3. Our forgetting and departing from God’s word can be caused by simply neglecting it. How much did you actually read your Bible last week?
   4. We forget God’s word by not teaching our children (Dt 6:4-9; Eph 6:4).
      a. When children depart and leave the church, how much time did you as a parent spend teaching them at home? Emphasizing Bible class and worship?
      b. We are always only one generation away from apostasy (Jud 2:11). One generation away from closing the doors of this church.
   5. We depart from God’s word by forgetting salvation is conditional.
      a. Your salvation is dependent upon continued obedience to God (1 Jn 1:5-10; Rev 2:10; Dt 8:11).
   6. As soon as we begin to lose sight of what God has said, we fall (1 Cor 10:12).

Conclusion:
1. There is always real danger in forgetting. When we forget, our faith grows weak. When we forget, sin lies at the door.

2. Although it is easy to forget a lot of things in life, let us never forget. . . .
   A. What Christ did for us. B. Where you were before Christ. C. What God’s word says. Psa 119:11.