

“Hear and obey Christ! This is the greatest service of God. Nothing else counts. For do what we will, what God has in heaven is better and more beautiful than anything we can do. Otherwise Saul would have delighted him, but God said, ‘Your worship is only an annoyance,’ although it was a beautiful service. Elsewhere it is written, ‘Sacrifice and offering I have not desired, but I wish to be obeyed.’ (Psalm 40:6-8). So Jeremiah declares that soldiers engaged in a war say that obedience is victory. (Jeremiah 7:23)”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Luther". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Martin" and the last name "Luther" clearly legible.

Commentary: Wow! I’m sure these words will shock those who dedicate many hours each week for the bulletin, music, and other parts of the worship service. Is worship really as simple as hearing God’s Word and obeying what Jesus says? Luther implies that hearing God’s Word is more important than reading it. People remember only 5% of what they hear in a lecture or sermon, 10% of what they read and 30% of what they see. But, we remember 90% of what we write and do! (https://notendur.hi.is/~joner/eaps/cs_reten.htm)

Read the Ten Commandments! Remember the Sabbath, Honor thy father and mother, etc. **But, then put into action what you read.**

Question: How often do you hear God’s Word? How often do you act on what God is saying to you?