

You Can't Cut Out God's Word

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Key Texts: Jeremiah 36; Luke 13:1–5; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24–25; Romans 6:3–4; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Timothy 2:9; Hebrews 10:24–25 (NASB 1995)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNYkUHmx6SE>

Introduction

- Many people want a “cut-and-paste” religion—keeping what they like and discarding what they don't.
 - History gives us a famous example in Thomas Jefferson, who cut out the miracles and the deity of Christ to make a Bible that fit his views.
 - Our culture still practices the same thing: buffet-style religion—pick what you want, leave the rest.
 - Jeremiah 36 shows us where that attitude leads through the example of King Jehoiakim.
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I. God's Word Was Written to Call People to Repent (Jeremiah 36:1–7)

- A. God commanded Jeremiah to write all the words He had spoken—from the days of Josiah onward.
- B. Baruch read the scroll publicly.
- C. The purpose was mercy.
 - God wanted the people, and the king, to repent.
 - Just as in Jonah's day, judgment could be turned aside by genuine repentance.

Callout — Encouragement:

God warns before He judges. His Word is an invitation to change, not just a sentence of doom.

II. Jehoiakim Cut Up God's Word and Burned It (Jeremiah 36:20–26)

- A. The king listened to a few columns of the scroll.
- B. Then he took a penknife, cut the scroll, and threw it into the fire.
- C. Some servants tried to stop him. Others did nothing.
- D. The king showed complete contempt for God's message.
- E. He also tried to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch.

Callout — Rebuke:

Rejecting God's Word is not neutral. It is open defiance against God.

III. You Can Burn the Scroll, But You Can't Destroy God's Word (Jeremiah 36:27–32)

- A. God told Jeremiah to write the words again.
- B. The message did not change.
- C. The judgment did not disappear.
- D. The king's rebellion only added more words of condemnation.

Callout — Warning:

Ignoring Scripture does not erase its authority. God's Word stands whether we accept it or not.

IV. The Message Has Always Been the Same: Repent or Perish (Luke 13:1–5; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; Hebrews 9:27)

- A. Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- B. Paul warned of eternal destruction for those who do not obey the gospel.
- C. Hebrews reminds us that judgment follows death.
- D. From Old Testament to New Testament, God's call is consistent:
 - Repent.
 - Change.

- Turn back to God.

Callout — Application:

Grace does not cancel repentance. It calls us to it.

V. The Spirit of Jehoiakim Is Still Alive Today

- A. People cut out what they don't like.
 - Baptism (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3–4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).
 - Obedience.
 - Moral standards.
- B. Others ignore passages that confront their lifestyle.
 - Marriage roles (Ephesians 5:22–33).
 - Modesty (1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3).
 - Faithful assembly and mutual encouragement (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- C. The problem is not misunderstanding.
 - The problem is refusal to submit.

Callout — Warning:

Disagreement with God does not change God. It only puts us at odds with Him.

VI. A Seared Conscience Refuses to Change

- A. Some people harden themselves through repeated sin.
- B. Scripture describes a conscience “seared as with a branding iron.”
- C. Jehoiakim’s stubbornness led to a brutal end.
- D. Stubborn rejection of God’s Word still leads to destruction—if not in this life, then in eternity.

Callout — Rebuke:

Stubbornness before God is not strength. It is spiritual suicide.

VII. Josiah Shows the Right Response (2 Kings 22–23)

- A. When Josiah heard God’s Word, he tore his clothes.
- B. He repented.
- C. He removed idols and changed the direction of the nation.
- D. He did not cut the Word—he submitted to it.

Callout — Encouragement:

True repentance starts with changing yourself, not rewriting Scripture.

Conclusion / Call to Action

- Jehoiakim tried to destroy God’s Word. He only destroyed himself.
- Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)
- Peter said the Word of God endures forever. (1 Peter 1:24–25)
- The question is not whether Scripture will stand.
- The question is whether we will submit to it.
- Today, choose to obey:
 - Believe in Christ.
 - Repent of sin.
 - Confess Him.
 - Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.
 - Or return and correct what needs to change.

Final Call:

Do not cut out God’s Word. **Let God’s Word cut your heart and change your life.**

Slide Deck (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — You Can’t Cut Out God’s Word

Main Content:

- Jeremiah 36
- The danger of rejecting Scripture
- The call to submit to God's Word

Scripture:

- Matthew 24:35

Design Intent:

- Light background
- Strong, clear title
- Serious and reverent mood

Slide 2 — A Cut-and-Paste Religion

Main Content:

- Keeping what we like
- Discarding what we don't
- "Buffet-style" faith

Design Intent:

- Clean layout
- Thought-provoking tone
- High contrast text

Slide 3 — God's Word Was Given to Call for Repentance

Main Content:

- Jeremiah commanded to write
- Baruch read the scroll
- God's purpose: repentance

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 36:1–7

Design Intent:

- Warm, readable background
- Hopeful but serious tone

Slide 4 — The King's Contempt for God's Word

Main Content:

- Jehoiakim cut the scroll
- Threw it into the fire
- Ignored God's warning

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 36:20–26

Design Intent:

- Light background
- Strong contrast
- Sobering mood

Slide 5 — You Can't Destroy God's Word

Main Content:

- God said, "Write it again"
- The message did not change
- Judgment did not disappear

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 36:27–32

Design Intent:

- Clear, confident
- Reassuring but firm tone

Slide 6 — The Message Has Always Been the Same

Main Content:

- Repent or perish
- Judgment is real
- Obedience matters

Scripture:

- Luke 13:1–5; Hebrews 9:27

Design Intent:

- Serious, instructive
- High readability

Slide 7 — The Same Spirit Today

Main Content:

- Cutting out baptism
- Ignoring obedience
- Rejecting hard teachings

Design Intent:

- Clean layout
- Challenging tone

Slide 8 — Examples People Want to Ignore

Main Content:

- Baptism: Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3–4
- Marriage roles: Ephesians 5
- Modesty: 1 Timothy 2:9
- Assembly: Hebrews 10:24–25

Design Intent:

- Light background
- Clear, organized
- Teaching-focused

Slide 9 — A Seared Conscience

Main Content:

- Repeated sin hardens the heart
- Refusal to change

- Spiritual danger

Design Intent:

- Serious, warning tone
- Simple and direct

Slide 10 — Josiah: The Right Response

Main Content:

- He heard God's Word
- He repented
- He changed his ways

Design Intent:

- Encouraging
- Hopeful and corrective

Slide 11 — God's Word Endures Forever

Main Content:

- Heaven and earth will pass away
- God's Word will not

Scripture:

- Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24–25

Design Intent:

- Uplifting
- Strong, confident tone

Slide 12 — The Call to Respond

Main Content:

- Do not cut out Scripture
- Submit to God's Word

- Let it change your life

Design Intent:

- Inviting but serious
- Clear and readable