



**DO NOT
ADD OR
DIMINISH**

THE COMMAND

2 You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

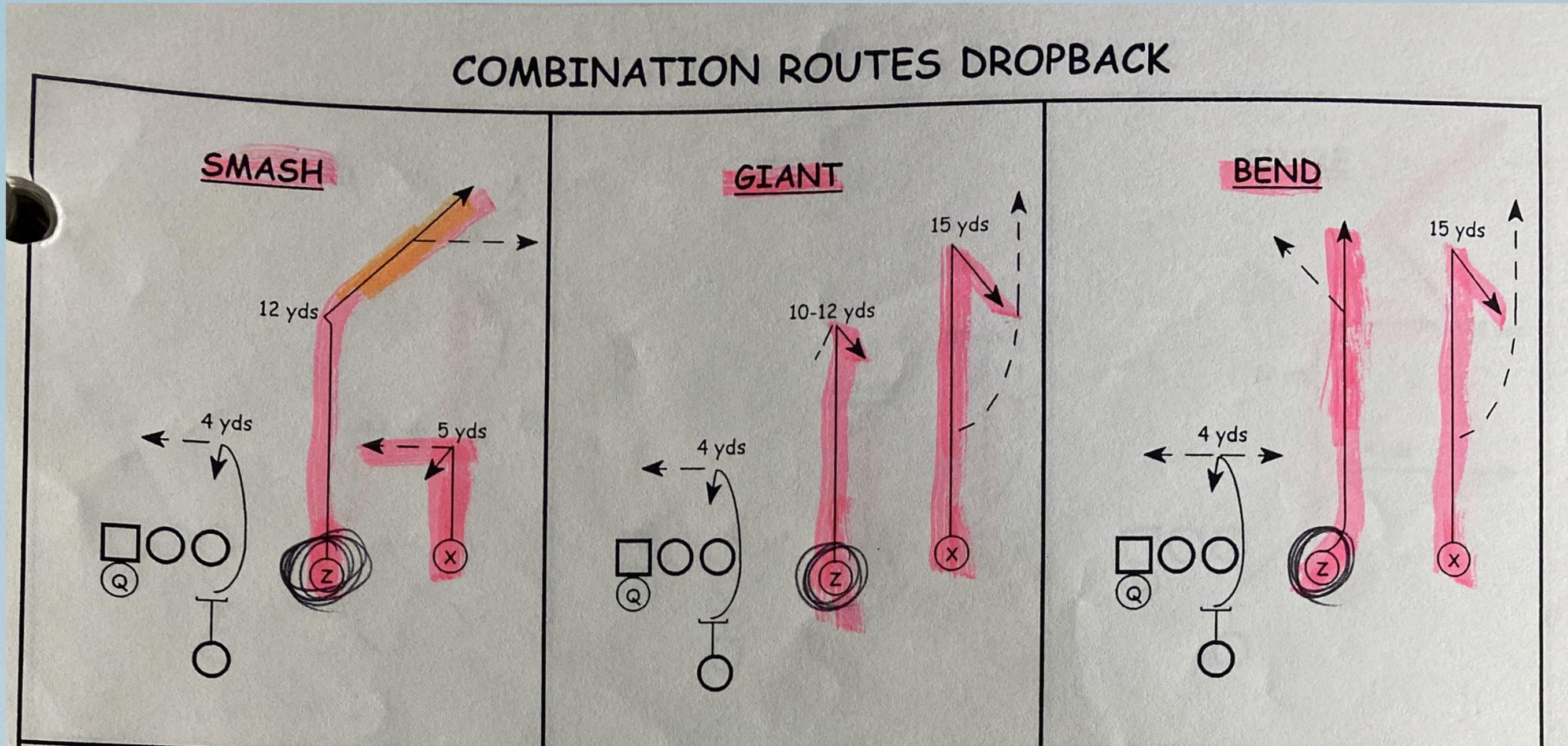
Deuteronomy 4:2

32 You must diligently observe everything that I command you; do not add to it or take anything from it.

Deuteronomy 12:32

EXAMPLE

COMBINATION ROUTES DROPBACK



We **DO NOT** Add or Take away from the routes.

EXAMPLE OF ADDING

10 As **it is written**, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God.**

Romans 3:10–11

Calvinism teaches NO MAN "**CAN**" **SEEK** GOD.

Where is the word "**CAN**" in the verse?

EXAMPLE OF ADDING 2

Core Grammatical Difference

Sentence	Grammar Type	What it Describes
There is none that seek after God	<u>Descriptive statement</u>	What people are doing
There is none that can seek after God	<u>Ability statement (modal verb)</u>	What people are capable of doing

So grammatically:

- **seek = describes action**
- **can seek = describes ability to perform the action**

EXAMPLE OF ADDING 3

Why This Matters in Theology

This grammatical difference is a major point in debates about human nature and salvation.

Some theological systems interpret **Romans 3:11** as:

Humanity **cannot** seek God.

But grammatically the verse itself states:

Humanity **does not** seek God.

The verse **describes behavior**, not **inability**.



Simple Illustration

Example:

- "No one is running."
→ describes what people are doing.
- "No one can run."
→ says people **lack the ability** to run.

Those two sentences communicate **completely different claims**.

EXAMPLE OF TAKE AWAY

14 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15 NRSV

Some People Teach

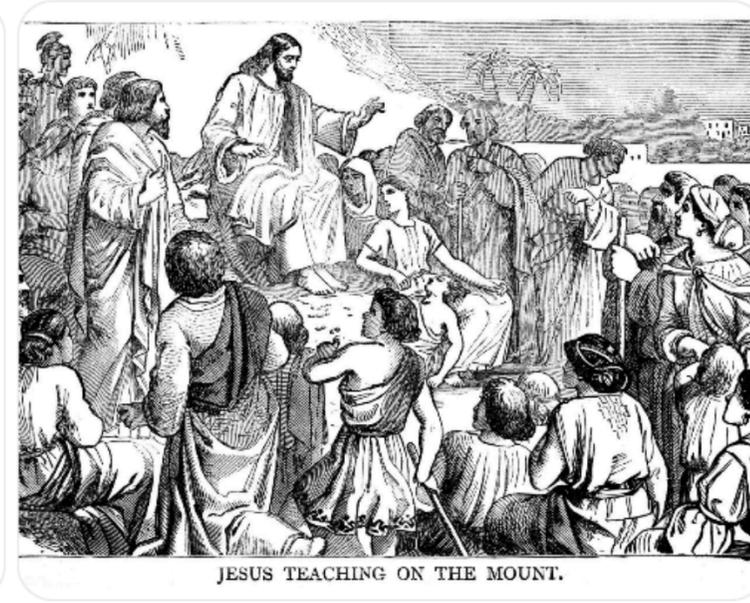


“You do not have to forgive in order to be saved. You are eternally secure and you will still enter into Heaven.

QUESTION



Gospel of Matthew 6:14–15



“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” **Now if someone says "you do not have to forgive because you are eternally secure" what are they doing to the verse Jesus said in Matthew 6:14-15?**

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Grammatically, What Is Jesus Doing in This Verse?

Jesus is making a **conditional statement**.

Structure:

IF you forgive others → **THEN** the Father will forgive you

IF NOT you forgive others → **THEN NOT** the Father will forgive you

This is a classic **conditional cause-and-result statement**.

Condition	Result
Forgive others	Father forgives you
Do not forgive	Father does not forgive

Jesus ties **God's forgiveness of a person** directly to **that person forgiving others**.

What Happens When Someone Says

"You do not have to forgive because you are eternally secure"?

Grammatically and logically they are doing one of three things to Jesus' statement.

1. They are nullifying the condition

Jesus gives a **requirement**.

They are saying the requirement **does not actually apply**.

In logical terms they are turning this:

IF A → B

into

B happens regardless of A

Which **removes the condition Jesus placed in the sentence**.

2. They are redefining the type of forgiveness

Some people reinterpret the verse to mean:

- It is about **fellowship forgiveness**
- Not **salvation forgiveness**

But notice the text simply says:

“your Father will forgive your trespasses”

There is **no grammatical distinction in the verse itself** between types of forgiveness.

That distinction is **added later as a theological explanation**, not derived from the grammar of the sentence.

3. **They are overriding the plain force of Jesus' warning**

Jesus gives a **direct warning statement**:

“neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

If someone claims forgiveness is **guaranteed regardless**, they are essentially saying:

The warning does not actually function as a real consequence.

That changes the force of Jesus' words from a **real conditional warning to a non-binding statement**.

Another Passage Where Jesus Says the Same Thing

In Gospel of Matthew 18:21–35 (the parable of the unforgiving servant), Jesus ends with a similar warning:

“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Again the structure is **conditional**.

Grammatically and Logically

If someone says:

“You do not have to forgive because you are eternally secure”

They are doing one of the following to Jesus’ statement:

1. **Removing the condition** Jesus placed in the sentence
2. **Redefining what forgiveness means**
3. **Neutralizing the warning** in the text

All three approaches **change how the original conditional statement functions**.
