

Statements about salvation (survival into the afterlife) that have often been associated with traditional Christianity

In fairness, it is important to note that no single branch or denomination proclaims or promotes every single statement portrayed in the table. Although these statements are reasonably representative, at least in terms of their spirit and overtones, it is best to interpret them as examples.

Possible ratings		
A – True		C – Mainly false, but partly true
B – Mainly true, but partly false		D – False
X – Cannot be evaluated		
1	God saves whom he wills. Although it is possible to be optimistic about someone who leads a godly life, in the final analysis we do not and cannot know whether God has chosen a particular person for heaven, or for hell.	D-2, X-1
2	It is necessary to believe in Jesus in order to be saved (<i>in order to survive into the afterlife</i>).	D-2, X-2
3	Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (<i>will survive into the afterlife</i>).	D-2, X-1
4	Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (<i>will survive into the afterlife</i>), but only if he or she has been properly baptized.	D-4, X-1
5	Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (<i>will survive into the afterlife</i>), but only if he or she has been properly baptized and has accepted the doctrines and teachings that the church proclaims.	D-4, X-1
6	Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved (<i>will survive into the afterlife</i>), but only if he or she has been properly baptized, has accepted the doctrines and teachings that the church proclaims, and has kept the commandments (although he or she may have sinned from time to time).	D-4, X-1

Possible ratings		
A – True		C – Mainly false, but partly true
B – Mainly true, but partly false		D – False
X – Cannot be evaluated		
7	Outside the church there is no salvation. <i>(This is the standard translation of the original wording in Latin, “Extra ecclesiam nulla salus.”)</i>	D-4, X-1
8	Anyone who does not believe in Jesus will be condemned to hell.	D-4, X-1
9	Anyone who does not believe in God will be condemned to hell.	D-4, X-1
10	Baptism is necessary in order to remove the stain of original sin that contaminates each infant because of the misconduct of Adam and Eve.	D-4, X-1

(NOTE: This table was drafted on December 5, 2018 and was circulated to panelists the next day. We discussed statements 1, 2, and 3 during the webinar on December 8, then discussed statements 4 through 10 on December 15.

The ratings shown in the column at the right identify the number of panelists who gave the corresponding reply. For statements 4 through 10, however, the ratings include the written responses from one person who had participated on December 8 but knew he would not be available on December 15.)