

Chapter One Summary of Convicted by Brad Harrub

1. Does God Exist?

- a. Consider:
 - i. Only bodies with an eternal component (e.g. the spirit) can have meaning (thus, finite lives do not have meaning)
 - ii. If there are no gods, then there are no endless lives (thus, if there are no gods, all lives are finite)
 - iii. If there is no God, then no lives have meaning
- b. "Something" to think about:
 - i. "Something" exists today, therefore:
 - ii. "Something" must be eternal and has always existed, therefore:
 - iii. "Something" violates scientific laws (2nd Law of Thermodynamics), therefore:
 - iv. "Something" exists outside the observable laws of naturalistic science
- c. The Big Bang
 - i. Science says the universe was created by an enormous explosion, coming from something roughly the size of a period.
 - ii. The Law of Cause and Effect says that for "every material effect there must be an adequate cause"
 - iii. We don't believe a mole carved the Grand Canyon. Should we believe everything that exists today sprang from something the size of a period?

2. Worldviews

- a. Worldviews frame our answers to the big questions of life
 - i. Who am I?
 - ii. Where did I come from?
 - iii. Why am I here?
 - iv. Where am I going?
- b. The 5 Basic Worldviews
 - i. Naturalism – No gods – Naturalistic science can explain everything
 - ii. Pantheism – Cosmic Force – Everything is connected
 - iii. Theism – One God – Christianity, Islam, Judaism
 - iv. Polytheism – Many gods – Wiccan, Hinduism, Greek/Romans
 - v. Postmodernism – Truth is relative – What's wrong for you can be right for me
- c. Tolerance vs. Intolerance
 - i. Society is okay with the idea of not tolerating lies and "bad" things
 - ii. The real question is "Can we discern right from wrong?"

3. Accepting Truth vs. Embracing Lies

- a. Some would rather embrace a lie than incorporate a Supreme Being into their worldview!
 - i. Aldous Huxley – "We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom."
- b. Pascal's Wager
 - i. If there is no God, the atheist and the Christian lose nothing.
 - ii. If there is a God, the atheist loses everything
- c. We all have the same evidence, but different conclusions are being drawn because our biases