

SNOWBIRD WILDERNESS OUTFITTERS

SW016 – ZACH MABRY

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**WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN  
GOD?**

## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

- ▶ God exists
- ▶ God does not exist

## THE NATURE OF BELIEF IN GOD

- ▶ Belief in God is not just something that you can add to or subtract from your overall worldview. It becomes the foundation on which everything else depends upon.
- ▶ This is a worldview question.

## WHAT BEST CORRESPONDS TO REALITY?

- ▶ Every worldview needs internal coherence (doesn't contradict itself)
- ▶ External Consistency (needs to properly make sense of the outside world)

## WHAT BEST CORRESPONDS TO REALITY?

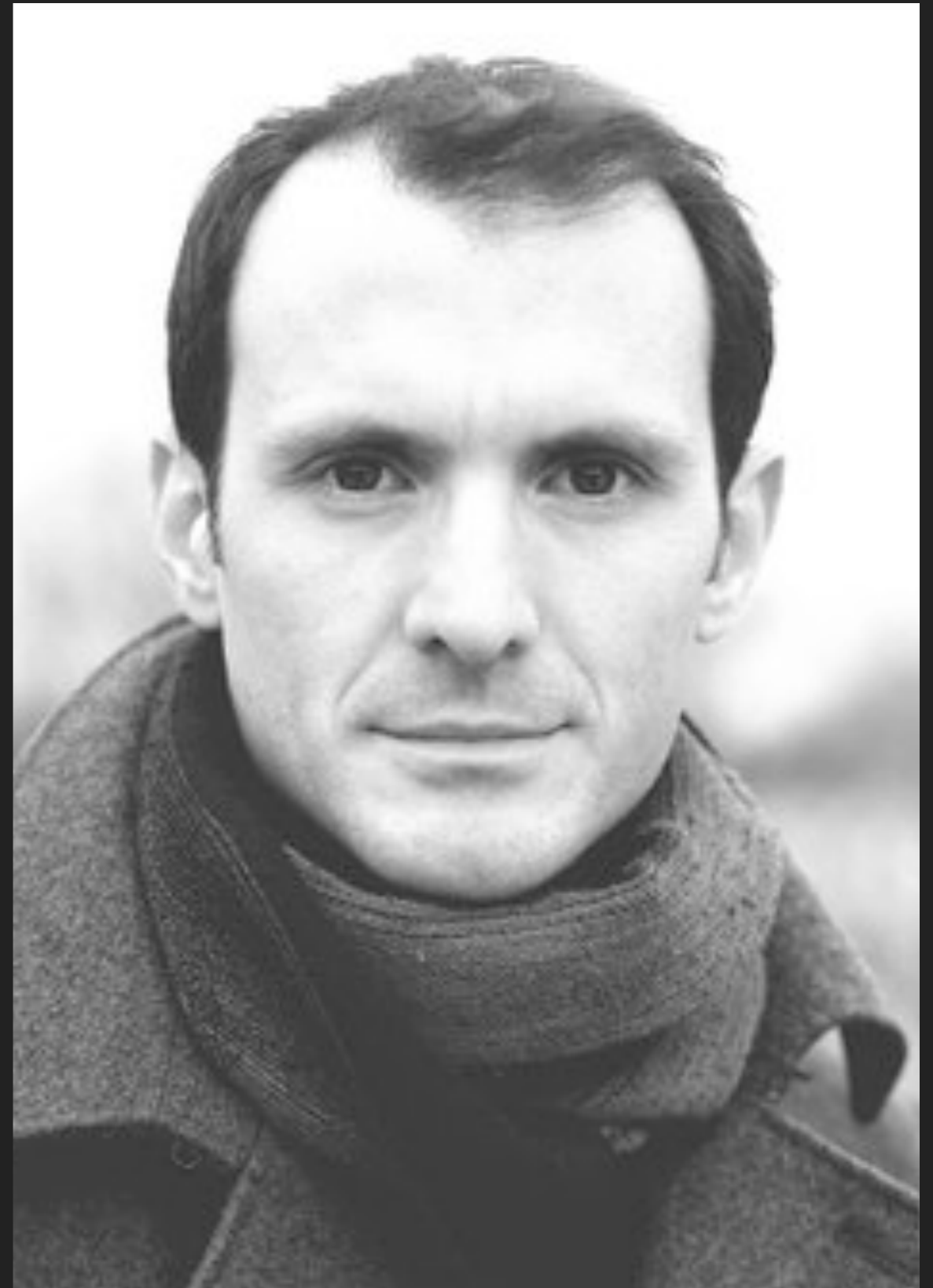
- ▶ Everyone of us lives our lives as if we are thinking creatures who's decisions matter. We believe that we have value and that there is right and wrong?
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ Any worldview must answer this

## WHAT BEST CORRESPONDS TO REALITY?

- ▶ Belief in the God of the Bible gives a proper foundation for all of this.
- ▶ Or it's not true we are just living that way.
- ▶ In fact, living in this way is the best way for people to live. Even atheists believe this...
- ▶ Everyone needs to have answers for why they believe what they believe.

## STEPHEN CAVE

- ▶ “Our ability to chose our fate is not free, but depends on our biological inheritance.”
- ▶ “There is agreement in the scientific community that the firing of neurons determines not just *some* or *most* but *all* of our thoughts, hopes, memories, and dreams”
- ▶ “The contemporary scientific image of human behavior is one of neurons firing, causing other neurons to fire, causing our thoughts and deeds, in an unbroken chain that stretches back to our birth and beyond.”



## ALEXANDER ROSENBERG

- ▶ "What is the nature of reality? What physics says it is. What is the purpose of the universe? There is none. What is the meaning of life? Ditto. Why am I here? Just dumb luck. Does prayer work? Of course not. Is there a soul? Is it immortal? Are you kidding? Is there free will? Not a chance! What happens when we die? Everything pretty much goes on as before, except us. What is the difference between right and wrong, good and bad? There is no moral difference between them. Why should I be moral? Because it makes you feel better than being immoral. Is abortion, euthanasia, suicide, paying taxes, foreign aid, or anything else you don't like forbidden, permissible, or sometimes obligatory? Anything goes." - *The Atheist's Guide to Reality*





## LOYAL RUE

- ▶ "The universe is blind and aimless; it has now value in and of itself; it is unenchanted by forces, qualities, characteristics that might objectively endorse any particular human orientation toward it. The universe is dead and void of meaning; its significance is not demonstrably one thing or another. The universe just is." - *By the Grace of Guile*



## STEPHEN HAWKING

- ▶ “Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself out of nothing” - *The Grand Design*
- ▶ Multiverse



## RICHARD DAWKINS

- ▶ “Well, it could come about in the following way. It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, probably by some kind of Darwinian means, probably to a very high level of technology, and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet.” - *Expelled*
- ▶ “However improbable the origin of life might be, we know it happened on Earth because we are here.” - *The God Delusion*
- ▶ “The universe we observe has... no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind indifference... DNA neither knows or cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.” - *River out of Eden*



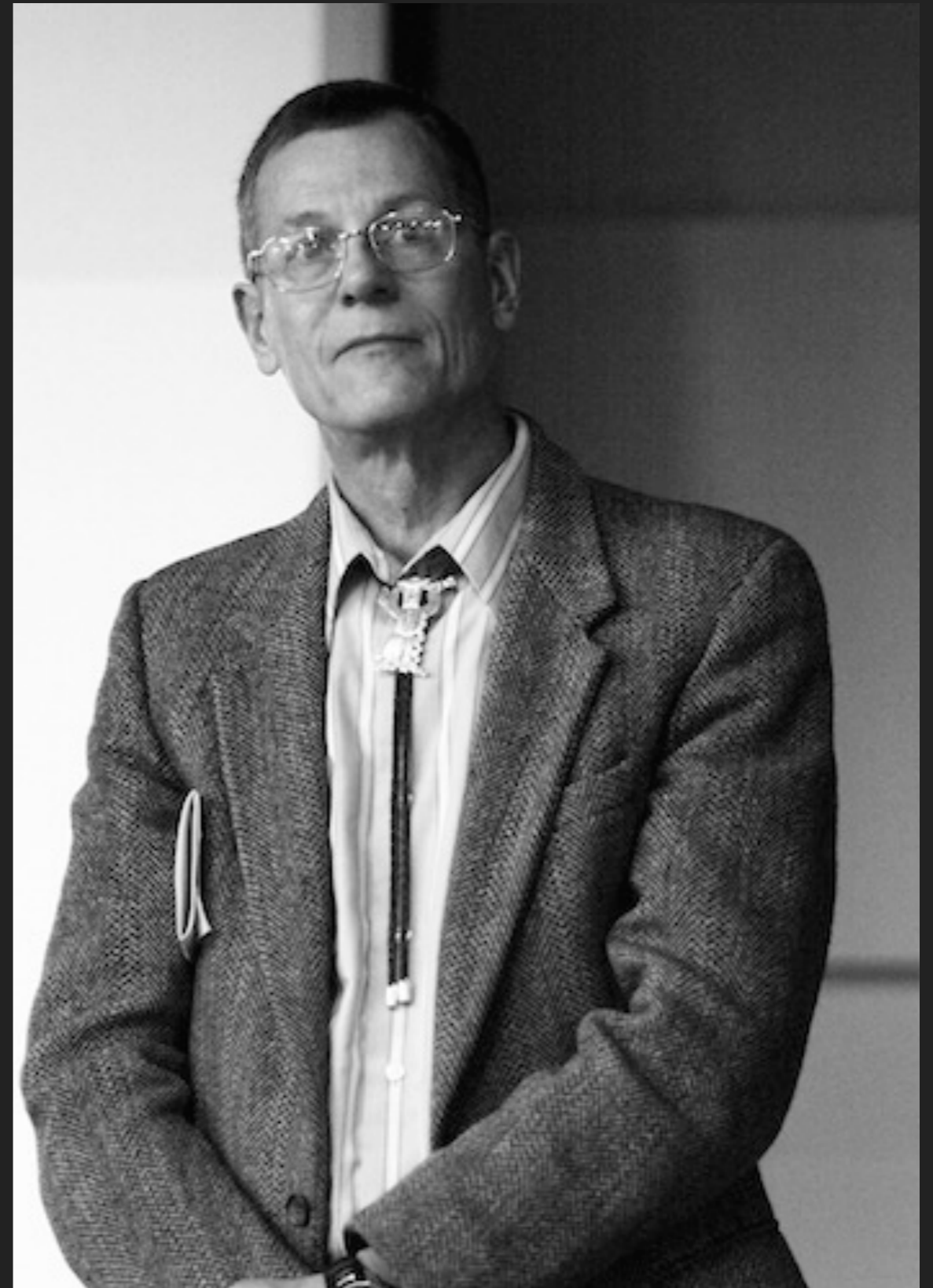
## LAWRENCE KRAUSS

- ▶ “Our picture has changed completely because we changed what we mean by something and nothing.”
- ▶ “Nothing is far more subtle than you might imagine, for the Bible for example, nothing would have been a vast, eternal empty universe. That would have been, you know, a void. Well that kind of nothing we now understand--namely empty space if you get rid of all the particles and all the radiation--that kind of nothing is actually quite complicated. In the modern universe it's a boiling, bubbling brew of virtual particles popping in and out of existence on a timescale so short you can't see them. So there's nothing there but actually lots of stuff is happening. You just can't see it, and that kind of nothing, one of the remarkable things we've learned is that kind of nothing is unstable.” - Interview with Cara Santa Maria 7/18/2012



## WILLIAM PROVINE

- ▶ “Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear ... There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That’s the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.” - *Origins Research*



## SAM HARRIS

- ▶ “Free will is actually more than an illusion (or less), in that it cannot be made conceptually coherent. Either our wills are determined by prior causes and we are not responsible for them, or they are the product of chance and we are not responsible for them.”
- ▶ — Sam Harris, *Free Will*



## SO WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

- ▶ Belief in God
  - ▶ Origin
  - ▶ Meaning and Value
  - ▶ Purpose
  - ▶ Morality
  - ▶ Hope

## SO WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

- ▶ God does not exist
  - ▶ Materialistic Determinism
  - ▶ No Reason
  - ▶ No Meaning, No Value
  - ▶ No basis for Morality
  - ▶ No Purpose, No Hope