

## **Theories of Atonement**

**1) Mousetrap/ Fishhook**

**2) *Christus Victor***

**3) Liberation from Sin, Death, Demonic Powers**

**4) Restoration of the Creation**

**5) Christ as Moral Exemplar**

**6) Penal Substitutionary Atonement**

**7) Reconciliation**

## Thomas Paine on Jesus, God, and the Atonement

*I well remember, when about seven or eight years of age, hearing a sermon read by a relation of mine, who was a great devotee of the church, upon the subject of what is called Redemption by the death of the Son of God. After the sermon was ended, I went into the garden, and as I was going down the garden steps (for I perfectly recollect the spot) I revolted at the recollection of what I had heard, and thought to myself that it was making God Almighty act like a passionate man, that killed his son, when he could not revenge himself any other way; and as I was sure that a man would be hanged that did such a thing, I could not see for what purpose they preached such sermons. This was not one of those kind of thoughts that had anything in it of childish levity; it was to me a serious reflection, arising from the idea I had that God was too good to do such an action and also too almighty to be under necessity of doing it. I believe in the same manner to this moment; and I moreover believe, that any system of religion that has anything in it that shocks the mind of a child, cannot be a true system.*

(Quoted in Craig Nelson, *Thomas Paine: Enlightenment, Revolution, and the Birth of Modern Nations*, p. 17)