

A
S E R M O N
BY THE
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“BUT THIS I SAY BRETHREN, THE TIME IS SHORT.”
1 Cor. chap. 7, verse 29.

“But this I say Brethren, the Time is short.” In these few, striking, and affecting words, does St. Paul seek to impress the transient nature of all the relationships, possessions, and pursuits of man. He had been writing to the Corinthians, about the lawfulness and expediency of forming connexions by marriage in the then existing state of the Church; in answer to enquiries, which had been made of him on the subject, by the Christians to whom he was writing. In the text, he breaks off from the topic before him, and the consideration of present circumstances, relationships, and interests; solemnly to remind them of the brevity and speedy conclusion of all earthly things. “But this I say, he exclaims with affectionate abruptness—the time is short;” whatever connexions, are now formed, must very soon terminate. “It remains that both they that have wives, be as though they had none, and they that weep, as though they wept not, and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not, and they that buy, as though they possessed not, and they that use this World, as not abusing it, for the fashion of this World passeth away.” It is but a short time we have to live below, and it