

**TWELVE SHORT
SERMONS, FOR THE
USE OF FAMILIES**

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Twelve Short Sermons, for the Use of Families by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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TWELVE
SERMONS,
&c.

PREFACE.

So many excellent sermons have been published, that it appears almost presumptuous to offer any addition to them. The writer, however, of the following discourses has not met with any small volume comprising the evidences of a Deity, and the Christian religion, with its principal doctrines and duties, at a price adapted to the means of persons in a more humble station of life. He trusts, therefore, such a work will not be considered as altogether superfluous. Plainness of style and language have been adopted, to render these discourses quite intelligible to those, for whose use they are principally designed. At the same time, it is hoped, they may not be wholly unacceptable to persons of superior education, and who may think them worthy of being read to their families on Sunday evenings.

On this account, brevity has been consulted, for if a sermon on such occasions, much exceed a quarter of an hour, the attention of the whole company can scarcely be kept up; nor is it much to be wondered at, when it is considered, that the most convenient hour, and that usually allotted for the sermon, immediately precedes bedtime. Utility being much more the aim of the writer, than to gain credit for originality, he has not scrupled to borrow freely from others, whatever appeared likely to promote this object.

That these humble endeavours may, through the blessing of God, tend to excite in careless persons a greater veneration for his holy name, and a more earnest attention to their eternal interests, is the sincere prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

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SERMON I.

PSALM C. 3.

THE LORD HE IS GOD, IT IS HE THAT HATH MADE US,
AND NOT WE OURSELVES.

Of all the important subjects that ever engaged the attention of mankind, that, of the existence of a God, is one of the most important. In it the dearest interests of every human being are involved; it is the foundation of all our true consolation in this world, and of all our hopes of happiness in the next.

The endeavouring to prove, what surely, no man possessing common sense can doubt seems almost an idle waste of time; still, however clear, however self-evident, a pro-

position may be, if we wish it to make a deep impression upon the mind, it seems necessary that our attention should be frequently called to it. "The fool may say in his heart there is no God," but no reflecting person can believe him. Why? because all nature proclaims aloud, that there surely is a God. Let a man turn up his eyes to the heavens, and observe the sun shining in glorious majesty, diffusing life, and light, and warmth, to all the inhabitants of this wondrous world,—let him survey the firmament bespangled with countless myriads of stars,—let him consider that very many of these resplendent objects are *known* to be immense globes like our earth,—that for thousands of years they have been in constant and most rapid motion; * still never wearing out; never impeding each other's course; but proceeding with far greater regularity than the most

* Our earth moves at the rate of 68,000 miles in an hour, and revolves around the sun in exactly the same time every year, being 365 days, 5 hours, 48 min. 49 sec.—The proof of this great regularity in the movements of the heavenly bodies, is clearly shewn by an astronomer being able to calculate eclipses to a minute of time.