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THE NEED OF THE AGE

“**W**E have a splendid humanitarian record. John Wesley’s vision of the need of social reform was infinitely ahead of that of his contemporaries, and is ahead of many of our contemporaries also. We believe in the Gospel of the Cross; we believe in the power of the Cross to save the worst man living; we believe in the Gospel of the Kingdom, the Gospel of a regenerated world, the Gospel of the City of God. Our message was never more needed than it is needed to-day. In this materialistic age we see men wildly flying in every direction for spiritual comfort and inspiration. We are plagued to-day with a crop of gimcrack theosophies. All such systems indicate a heart-hunger for the Gospel. Our age needs nothing more than the affirmation of the Gospel message of the Cross on the one hand, and the affirmation of the message of the Kingdom on the other hand. Why should we who know in whom we have believed be afraid of the criticism of the savant, who is said to have taken the virility out of our message of the Cross? Why should we who believe in the crown rights of Jesus in this world be afraid of the opposition of the world and gold as we give out the message of the Kingdom? What Methodism needs to-day, as the President told us at Conference, is more grace. The world is wrong; its measures are wrong; its methods are wrong; it is consumed with the ‘lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eye, and the pride of life.’ Is the Church infected with the world-spirit? This is the thing we have to fear.”—*J. E. Rattenbury.*