

ONE THING ABIDES

I Peter 1:22-25

On New Year's Day we think of the passage of time.

We are so transient. God and His Word alone abide: **Isa 40:6-8**

Isaiah 40 speaks to those in crushing misery of exile from The Land:

- a) **Comfort:** God will restore His people
- b) The **Voice:** to prepare for the Coming of the Glory of the Lord
- c) **What** does the Voice cry?
The contrast between our transience and the Word's permanence
(If you die in 2006, where will you spend eternity?)

Over 700 years later Peter quotes these words to show that God's Word is

- a) _____
- b) _____

It gives you a new power to live in a way that pleases God

- Holy (v15-16)
- Obedient (v14, 22)
- Loving (v22)

Why? 1:23 you have been born again
(cf. Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:26-27)

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- not just the Exile
 - not just the 1st century
 - but just as true in the 21st century

So look at our world at the beginning of 2006

The same need and same solution as in Isaiah's and Peter's days:

Our bondage to sin and active rebellion

Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice to

- redeem us (v18-19)
- come in the flesh in history (v20)
- raised (faith) and returning (hope) to set all things right (v21)

Lord's Supper: the elements of the bread and juice are to help our faith and hope and remember His power at the beginning of this new year.

This Word is very personal to you in your need and longing for change in this new year. 1:25b: this Word was preached to **YOU**

How do you need it?

What do you need to believe God to change in your life:

With whom do you want to share this Hope, believing the Word is powerful enough to change their lives as well?

List 3+ people you will pray for and seek to share with this year: