

# Blessings Through Bullying

I Peter 3:8-12

## **Virtues we need if we hope to relate well to others, 8**

- *Finally / To sum up:* 5 summarizing virtues for helping relationships:  
*harmonious (like minded), Phil. 2:2, Rom. 12:16*  
*sympathetic*  
*brotherly love*  
*kindhearted*  
*humble (see 5:5,6 and context of submission)*
- Compare to evil five in 2:1: *malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander.*

## **Blessings we get if we respond well to bullying by others, 9-12**

- NT theme of non-retaliation: Mtt. 5:45,46, Lk. 6:28, I Cor. 4:2, Rom. 12:14-19, 2 Thess. 5:15. These do not suggest pacifism, an inability for our own self-defense or our country but do demand we avoid a get-even mentality of vengeance.
- Blessing concepts: Also see 3:14, 4:13,14
- Why must we accept mistreatment?  
*called for this purpose--also see 2:21-23*  
*great reward--Lk. 6:35, Mtt. 5:12, 2 Cor. 4:17*
- Ps. 34:12-16 is quoted. This is the longest OT quote in I Peter and the second from Ps.34 (recall 2:3). It's a Declarative Psalm of Praise for David's deliverance. David's unjust sufferings (*many are the afflictions of the righteous*, 34:19a) and non-retaliatory responses no doubt provided some background for Peter's words.
- Are we truly wanting to get ahead by getting divine blessing or just satisfied to get even by responding in the flesh with vengeance?