

# Theology English 12

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Essay

**Assigned:** Nov. 1, 2011

**Posted:** Nov. 2, 2011

**Due date:** Friday, Nov. 18 by no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 to be submitted as an email attachment to [harrellb@episcopalhigh.org](mailto:harrellb@episcopalhigh.org)

**Draft review (optional unless you have been told otherwise) deadline:** in person by appointment no later than during the school day on Monday, Nov. 14. You must make an appointment and you must arrive with a printed draft in hand.

**Format:** MLA including a Works Cited page. Your essay must include at least three direct citations of text from Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*

**Length:** 750 min./1100 max.—the minimum refers to actual words of essay not including heading or Works Cited word count. An essay of less than the minimum will not be acceptable. If you exceed the maximum, it must be worth it because you have something important to say.

**Topic:** 2 Choices—choose one of these

- The concept of **conversion** as we see it in Bede's story of English Christianity and the growth of the Church.
- Bede's understanding of **heaven and hell** (and purgatory if you wish to incorporate that into the discussion)

**Commentary:** Obviously the two topic choices overlap each other, although the focus of each is clearly different. The **conversion** topic choice will certainly focus on stories, teachings, etc. that have to do with how the Christian message is presented and received, and this could include some attention to those presented as exemplary bishops, kings or holy men and women whose lives made the Christian Faith appealing by their words and deeds. The **heaven and hell** topic will focus on the increasingly elaborate and detailed descriptions from those who experienced the afterlife and returned to tell of it; you might want to examine the progression from the early accounts to the later ones.

An idea that links these two and thus produces the overlapping concerns the function of the human will to embrace the Faith or to reject the offer of grace. You may or may not wish to explore that link/overlap, but if you do you might find some reflection on C.S. Lewis or John Henry Newman helpful, and you might want to cite something from either of those sources in addition to your Bede citations.