

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. --Colossians 3:17

In Loving God, Charles Colson tells the story of Telemachus, a fourth-century Christian and monk. Telemachus lived in a remote village and spent most of his time tending his garden and praying.

One day, God told him to go to Rome. The monk responded obediently and set out on foot. Weeks later, he arrived at the city's gates to witness a great festival taking place. He followed the crowd through the streets toward the Coliseum.

Inside, he saw the gladiators stand before the emperor and say, "We who are about to die salute you."

Telemachus realized they were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowd, so he cried out, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

As the games began, Telemachus pushed through the crowds, climbed over the wall, and dropped to the arena floor screaming over and over, "In the name of Christ, stop!" The crowd thought this was part of the show, so they began laughing. When they realized it wasn't, their laughter turned to angry shouts.

Suddenly, one of the gladiators plunged his sword into the body of Telemachus. He fell to the sand and his last words were, "In the name of Christ, stop!" Then, a hush fell over the Coliseum and one man in the upper rows stood up and walked out. Soon, others began to follow and in silence everyone left the Coliseum.

On that day in B.C. 391, the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman Coliseum was fought. It was all because one tiny voice that could hardly be heard above the uproar spoke the truth in God's name.

Won't you be that small voice in the darkness and commotion of our culture today?

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Pray that others might be sensitive to hear the message of truth spoken by you in God's name.

--reprinted by permission of Senior Living Ministries