

Galileo Galilei

Intro: In honor of the great men in history who had a hand in liberating us Christians from the dominating and at times brutal control of the Roman Catholic Church, we typically dedicate the last Sunday in October to the Reformation.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

This year I would like to look, not at a religious reformer, but at an Italian physicist, astronomer, and mathematician named Galileo Galilei. Galileo was a devout Roman Catholic, who is recognized as the father of observational astronomy, modern physics, and the scientific method. Galileo's great genius lay in his ability to observe the world at hand, to understand the behavior of its parts, and to describe these in terms of mathematical proportions. While I have no official record to point to, I believe that Galileo's love of astronomy was perhaps based on **Psalm 19:1-2** "Day and night the created universe broadcasts its silent but eloquent symphony to the glory of the Creator."

Early Life And Education

His Academic Career

His Scientific Career

His Inventions

His Astronomical Discoveries

His Inquisitions

His Publications

Conclusion: In the end, the ideas of Galileo and other scientists like Copernicus triumphed, because they were able to prove them to be true. Although his ideas triumphed, Galileo paid a high price for his science: he spent the last eight years of his life under house arrest, and the Catholic Church banned the publication of anything written by him.