

## Personal Pictures of Plenty

One of the most recognizable symbols of Thanksgiving or harvest is the cornucopia or horn of plenty. It symbolizes abundance. The original cornucopia was a curved goat's horn filled to overflowing with fruit and grain.



It is a good reminder for all of us that we depend mightily on agriculture even though the great majority of Americans are not farmers. We still need the farmers to grow our food. Without them we would all be starving. So while we complain about rain on the weekends, the farmers are glad when the rains come, and pray even for weekend rain during a drought. Let us be thankful that this summer's dry spell did not last too long for the farmers or for us.

The cornucopia might be a good symbol for a farmer to identify with his or her prosperity this year, but maybe you would pick a different symbol for your prosperity. What object or logo would serve you as a reminder of your material prosperity? Maybe you would use a cell phone, a DVD logo, the logo of your current vehicle, a house symbol for your home, the logo for your neighborhood, or the logo of the company you work for.

Americans eat out more than ever before. If that describes your lifestyle, maybe the logo for your favorite restaurant would be suitable for you. Maybe you have a lot of time to spend on your hobby and some object associated with that would could serve as a reminder of your prosperity. Whatever symbol you might use, let it remind you to be thankful this holiday season as you enjoy your prosperity.

As Christians the symbol most meaningful for us is the cross. As tragic as the cross was for Jesus to experience, Christians can celebrate all the spiritual blessings we enjoy ONLY because Jesus went to the cross. And while material blessings are certainly to be appreciated, if we lost them all tomorrow we would still have a place in the kingdom of Christ. We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have few if any of our material blessings and they still live in joy because of their spiritual blessings.

So even as you give thanks for your material blessings, give thanks even more, everyday, for your spiritual blessings in Christ. Let us keep our Savior, our Lord, and His cross before our eyes as we give thanks for the good things God gives us.

-- pastor Robin