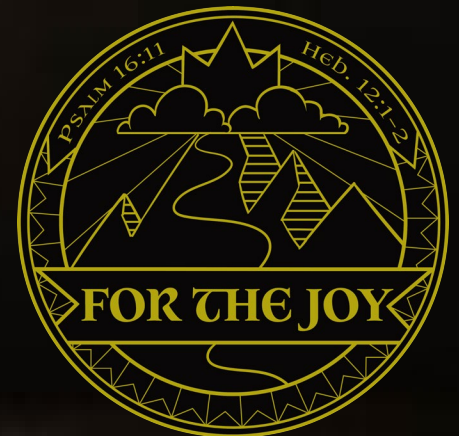


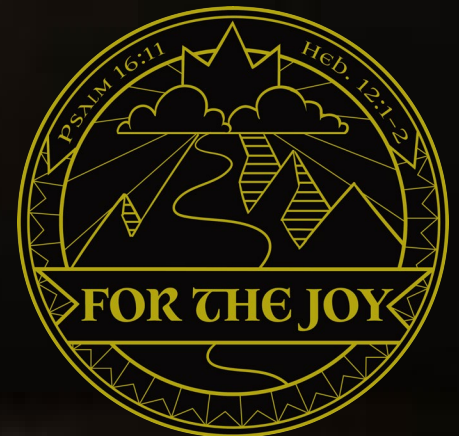
A Contrast of Treasures

Malachi 3:13-18



The Root of Treasuring God

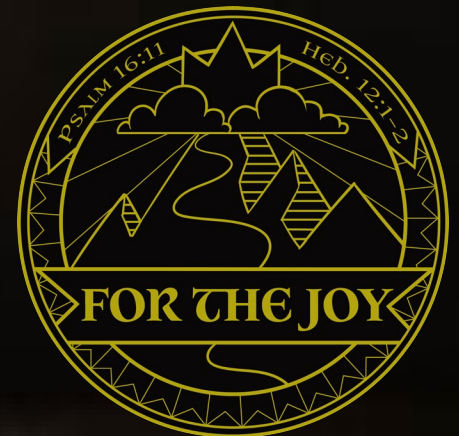
- **Treasuring (fearing) God is the central issue in Malachi**
 - **V₁₆ – *esteem* – to treasure; consider valuable**
 - **The root of righteousness is a heart that treasures Yahweh.**
 - **V₁₄ - The entire motivation of the wicked is gaining something other than God.**



The Root of Treasuring God

- **Treasuring God is the central issue in Scripture**
 - **The Palms relentlessly treasure God – Ps 27:4/73:25/16:2**
 - **Jesus is radical in His call to treasure God**
 - **“Rejoice in the Lord” is one of the most repeated commands in the Bible**

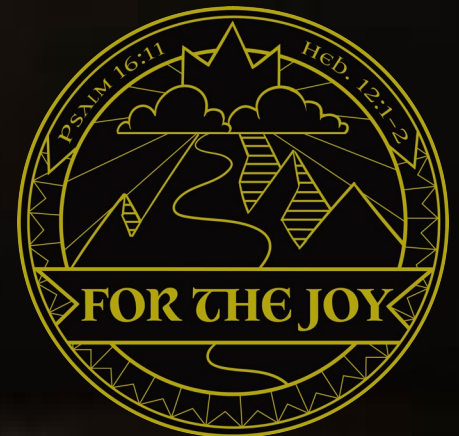
Treasuring God is at the very heart of Scripture
because God is most glorified in us when are
most satisfied in His infinite worth.



The Root of Treasuring God

- What does it look like to treasure God?

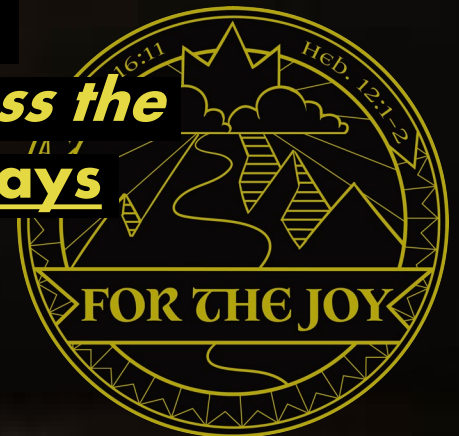
Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) — 44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.



The Root of Treasuring God

- What does it look like to fail to treasure God?

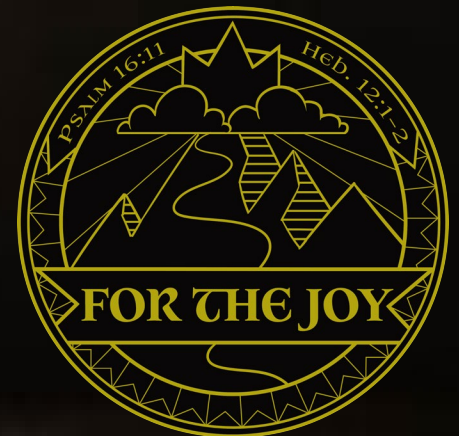
Luke 15:29–31 (NET) — He answered his father, ‘Look! These many years I have worked like a slave for you, and I never disobeyed your commands (*served and kept your commands*). Yet you never gave me even a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends! (*its is vain to serve You*)³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ (*You bless the wicked*)³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything that belongs to me is yours.



The Root of Treasuring God

- **Examine Yourself – Be a Fruit-Inspector**
 - Hearts that treasure God bear good fruit, and hearts that do not treasure God bear rotten fruit.

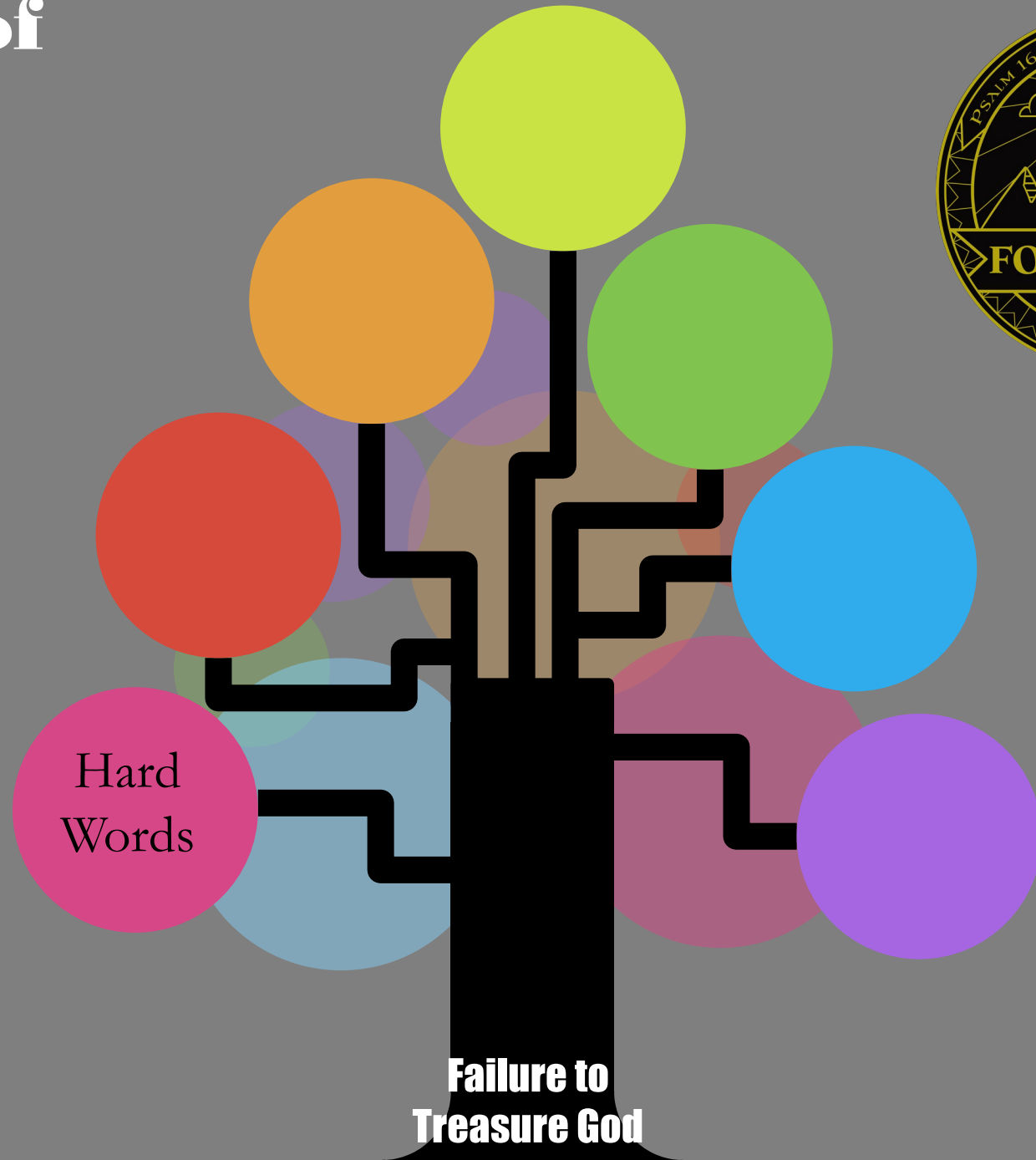
Matthew 7:16–20 (NET) — 16 You will recognize them by their fruit. Grapes are not gathered from thorns or figs from thistles, are they? 17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.



The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **Hard words against God spring from hard hearts towards God**

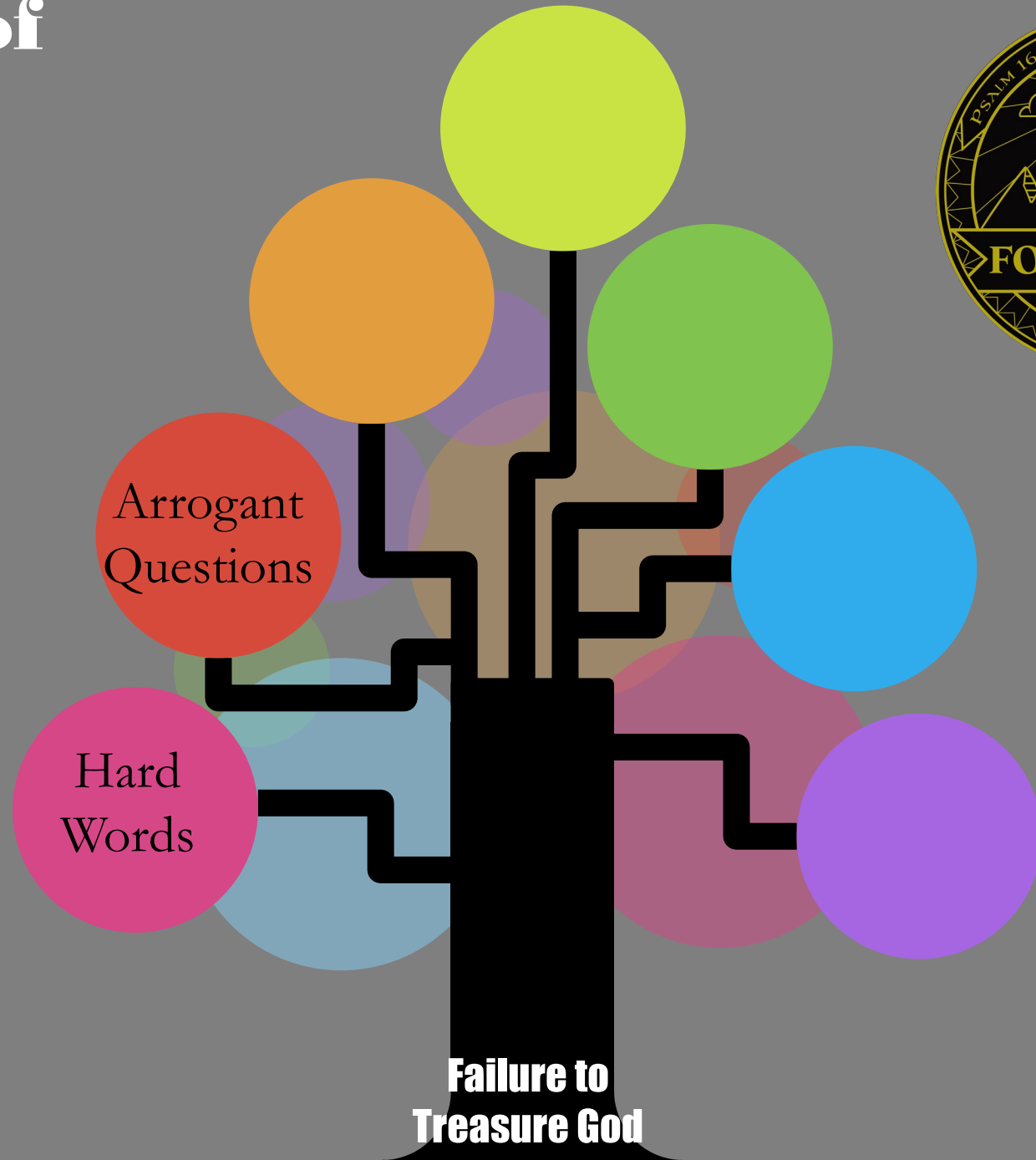
Matthew 12:34–37 (NET) — 34 For the mouth speaks from what fills the heart. 35 The good person brings good things out of his good treasury, and the evil person brings evil things out of his evil treasury. 36 I tell you that on the day of judgment, *people will give an account for every worthless word they speak.*



The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **Arrogant questions reveal a heart that does not fear God!**
- **It is wrong to question God as if you were His judge.**

Romans 9:19–21 (NKJV) — 19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

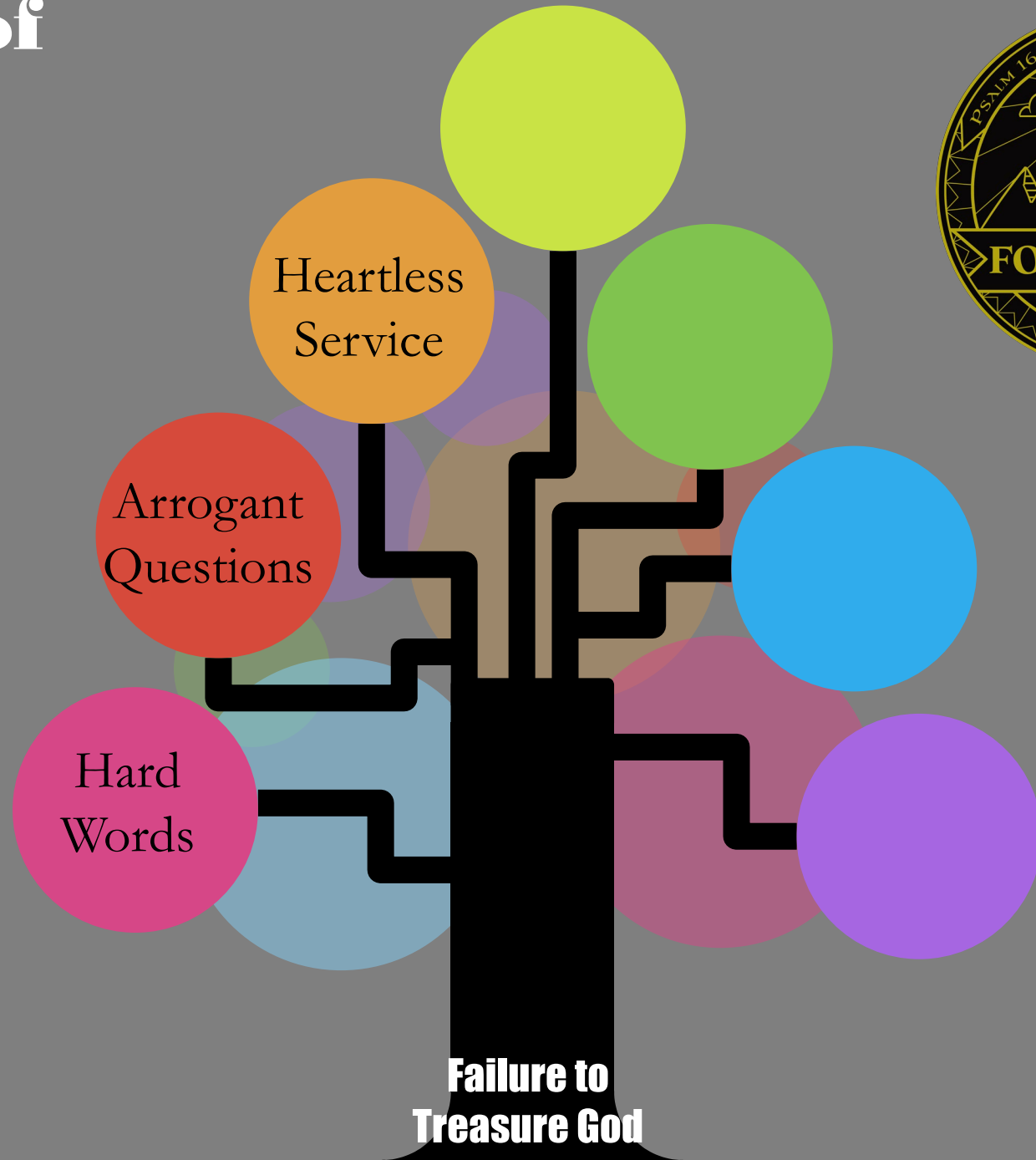


The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **The very essence of service is a heart (affections) that treasures God.**

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 (NKJV) — 12

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, *to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*



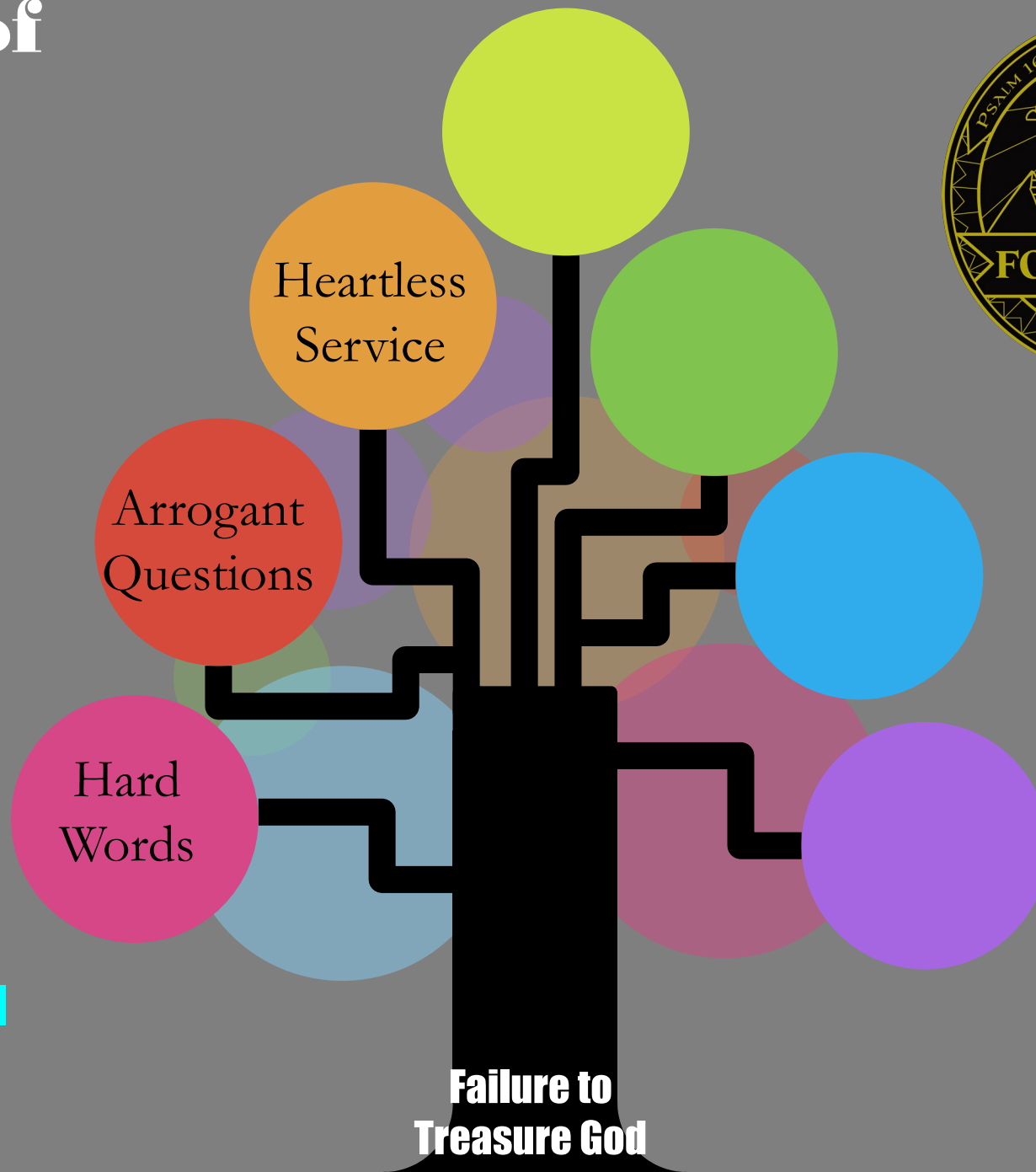
The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- Demons can “go through the motions”

Luke 8:28 (NKJV) — 28 When [the demon] saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!

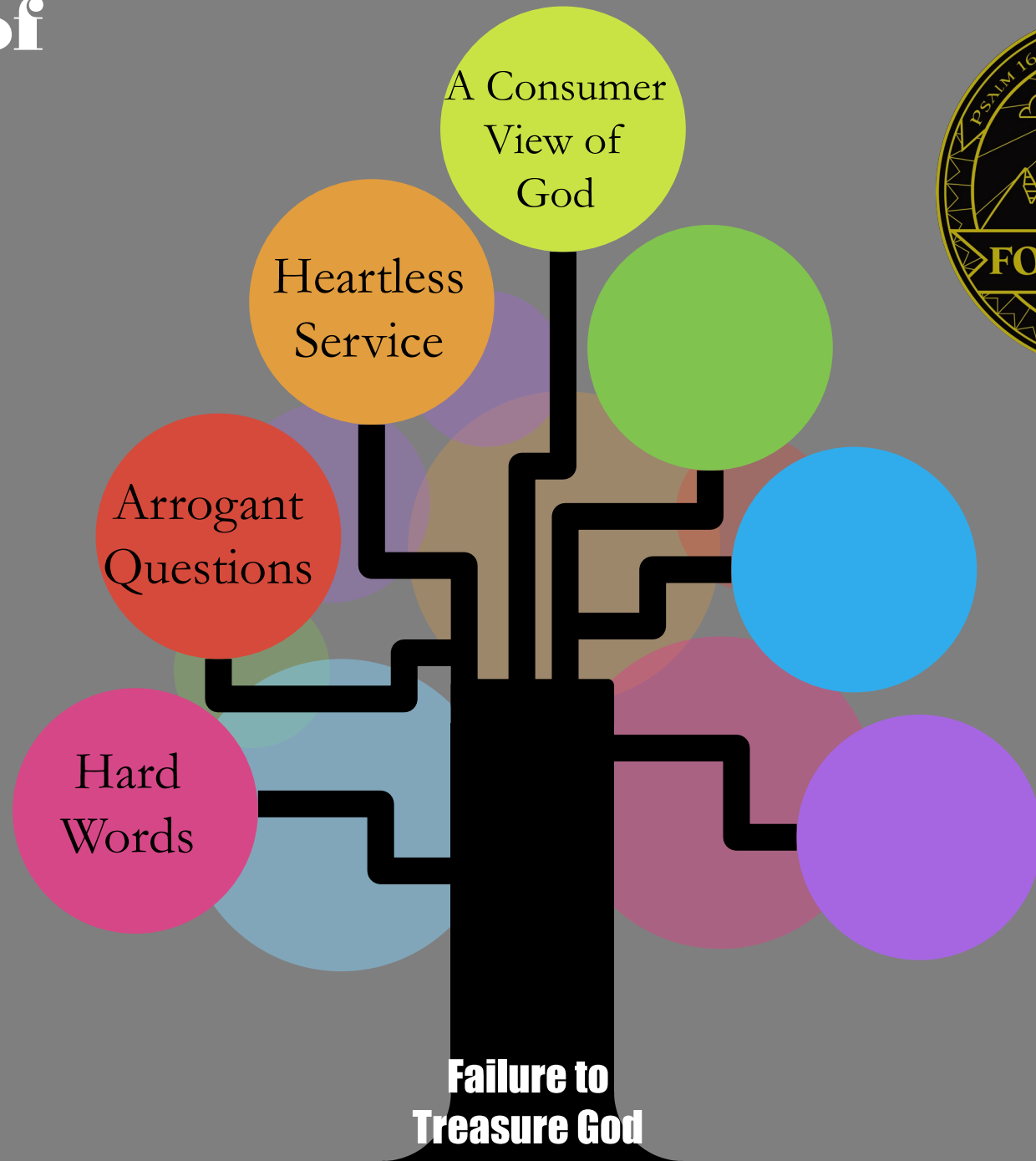
Here is *external worship*. The [demon] is religious; he prays: he prays in a humble posture; he falls down before Christ, he lies prostrate; he prays earnestly, he cries with a loud voice; he uses humble expressions—“I beseech thee, torment me not”—he uses respectful, honorable, adoring expressions—“Jesus, thou Son of God most high.” *Nothing was [lacking] but love.*

Johnathan Edwards



The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- Here is the root of the problem: these people (and many in the church today) see God as a means to an end.
- They wanted the Giver *only* if He provided gifts!

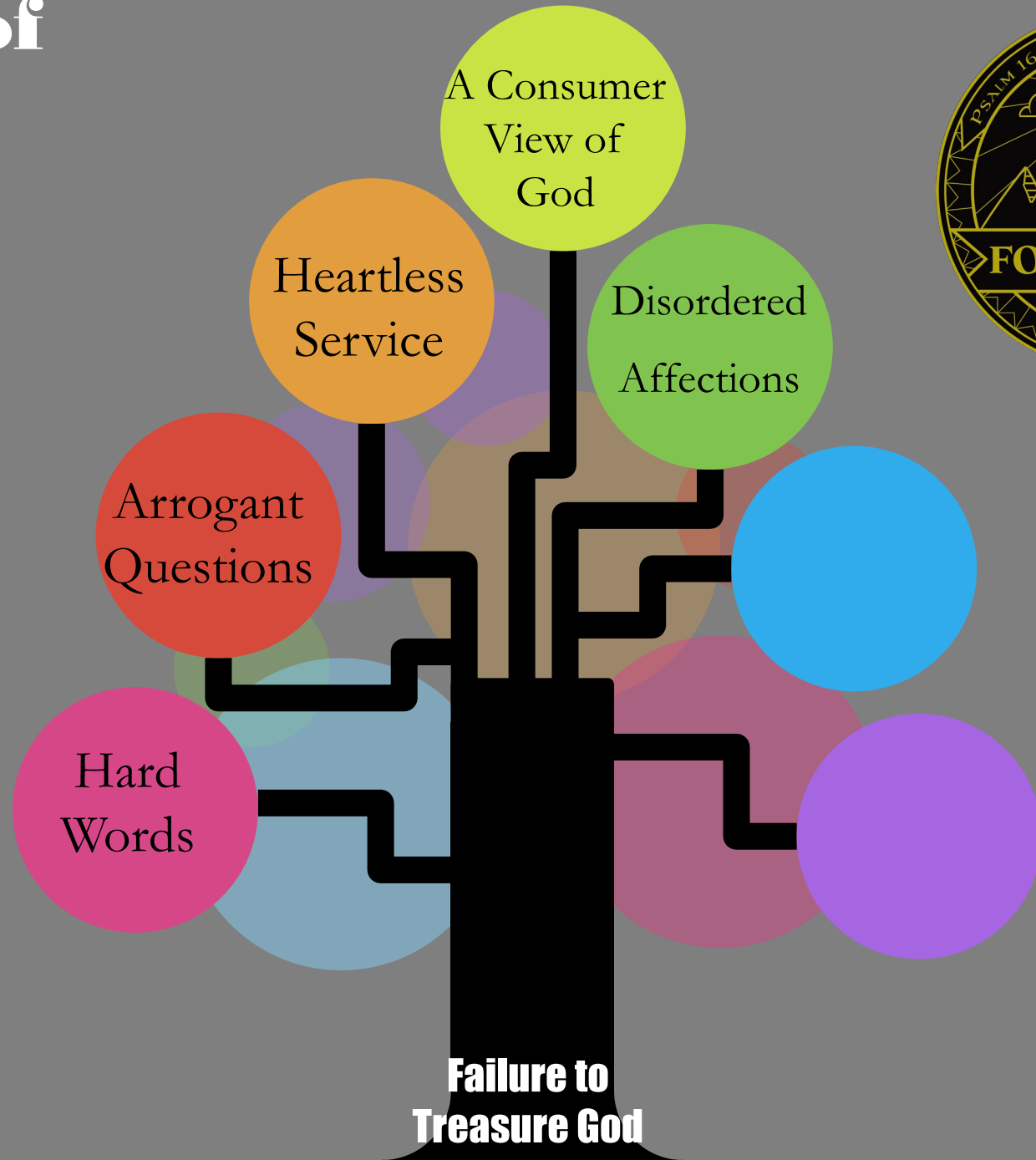


The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **Our service of God is to be joyful and happy!**

Psalm 100:2 (NKJV) — 2 Serve the LORD with gladness

Nehemiah 8:9–12 (NKJV) — “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.”...Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, (go feast) and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

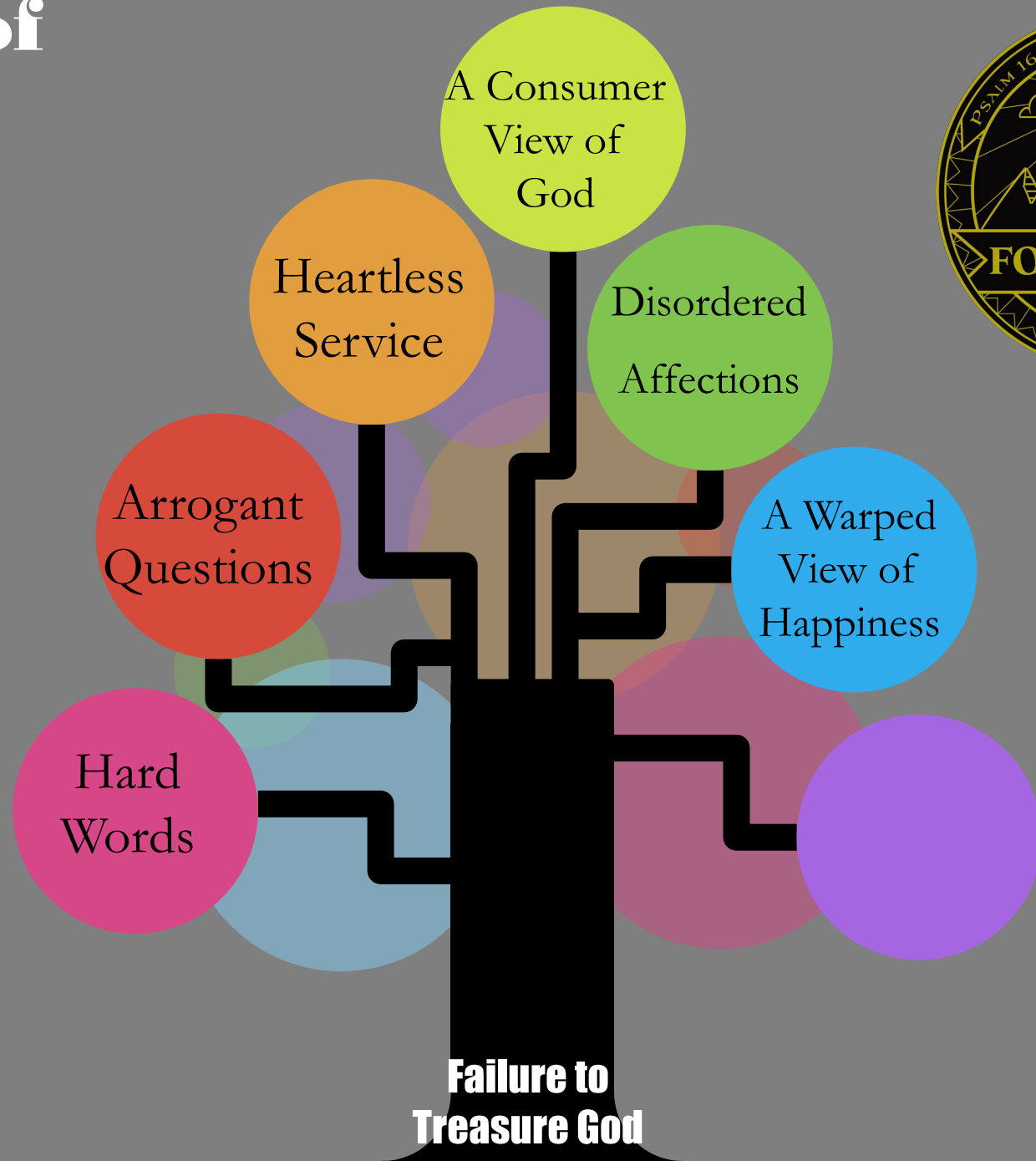


The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **God says the proud are *cursed* and the humble are happy**

Psalm 119:21 (HCSB) — 21 You rebuke the proud, the ones under a curse, who wander from Your commands.

Luke 6:20–23 (NKJV) — 20 “Blessed (happy) are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. 22 Blessed are you when men hate you, ...For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! *For indeed your reward is great in heaven,*

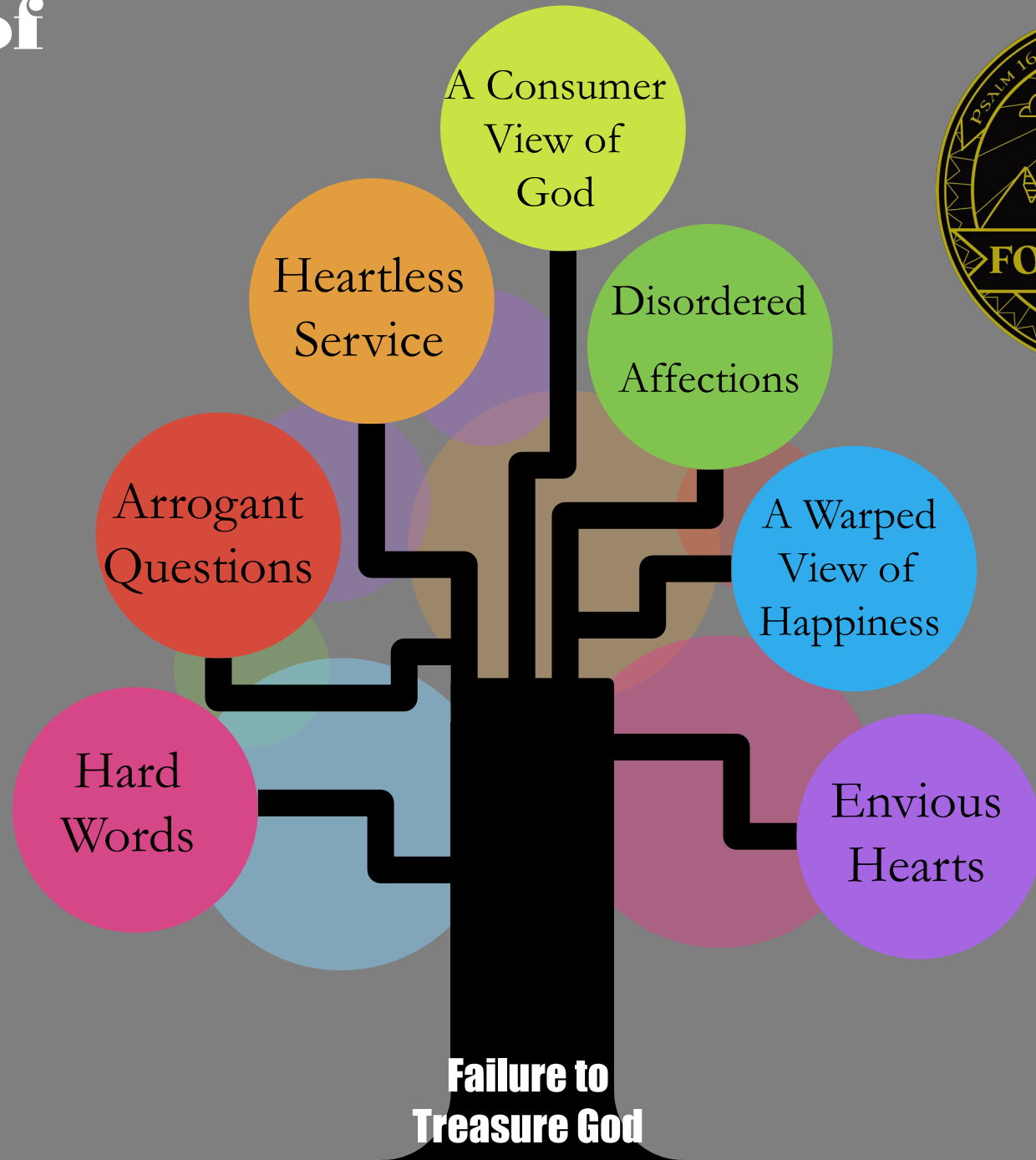


The Rotten Fruit of Hearts that Don't Treasure God

- **Envy is evidence (fruit) of unbelief in the worth of God!**

Proverbs 15:16 (NKJV) — 16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble

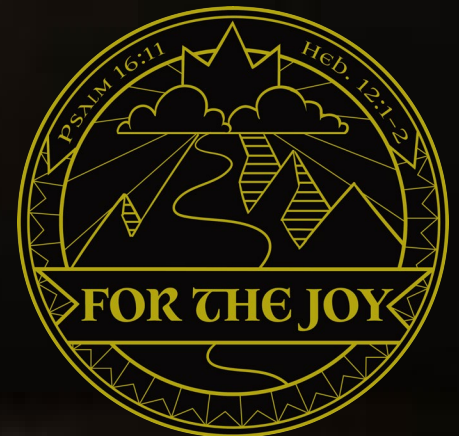
Psalm 73:17-18 (NET) — 17 Then I... understood the destiny of the wicked. 18 Surely you put them in slippery places; you bring them down to ruin...28 *But as for me, God's presence is all I need.*



The Staggering Blessings of Those Who Treasure God

- They Are Heard By Yahweh

Psalm 145:19–20 (NKJV) — 19 [the Lord] will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. 20 The Lord preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.



The Staggering Blessings of Those Who Treasure God

- They are remembered by Yahweh

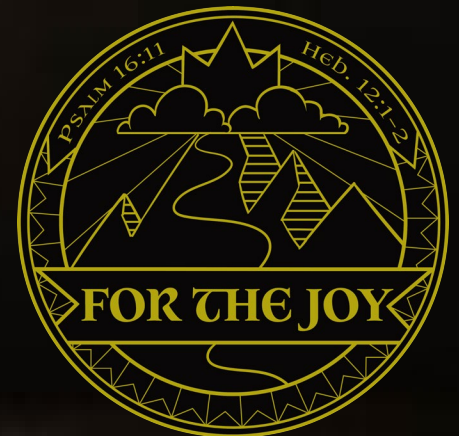
Malachi 3:16 (NKJV) — 16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.



The Staggering Blessings of Those Who Treasure God

- They are treasured by Yahweh
 - *My special possession* - the personal property of a king as distinct from what he owns as a ruler.
 - God treasures those who treasure (fear) Him

Psalm 147:11 (NKJV) — 11 The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.



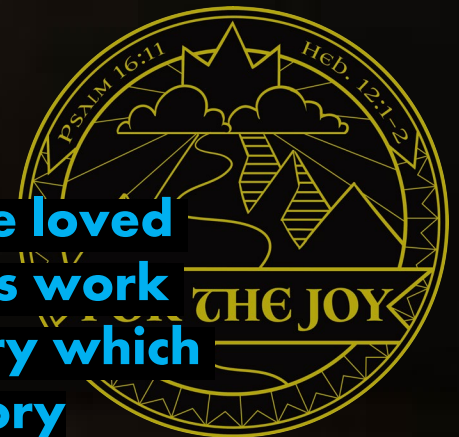
The Staggering Blessings of Those Who Treasure God

- What does it look like for God to treasure people?
 - It looks like God singing

Zephaniah 3:17 (NET) — 17 The Lord your God is in your midst; he is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; he renews you by his love; he shouts for joy over you."

- It looks like God delighted

To please God...to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is. CS Lewis, Weight of Glory



The Staggering Blessings of Those Who Treasure God

- They are saved by Yahweh
 - God can spare His sinful sons because He did not spare His sinless Son.

Isaiah 53:3–6 (NKJV) — 3 He (the Messiah) was despised, and we did not esteem [treasure] Him...6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way. And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

