

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

01 . 06 . 2024

The Covering

After six weeks on trial, the former President Donald Trump was found guilty in a hush-money lawsuit involving payments to former adult entertainment star Stormy Daniels. What is significant about this outcome is that it is the first time a former US president has been legally charged and convicted. The allegations arise from payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign to keep Daniels quiet about an alleged affair. The prosecution said that the payments made by Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, broke campaign finance rules.

Trump, who is both controversial and outspoken, has repeatedly denied the affair and any misconduct, describing the lawsuit as a politically motivated attack. Nevertheless, the 12 prominent jurors unanimously found enough evidence to condemn him. Cohen, who has previously done jail time on related charges, testified against Trump, outlining how the payments were made and then concealed.

The conviction has far-reaching consequences, not only for Trump but also for future presidential candidates and their actions. It emphasises the legal limits of political money and the repercussions of exceeding them. This issue has provoked extensive controversy and is expected to impact public opinion and political discourse in future elections.

Trump's conviction also underscores the growing scrutiny of high-profile persons' behaviour and the legal consequences they face. It establishes a precedent in the court system, demonstrating that previous presidents are not above the law. As Trump and his legal team prepare to appeal, the issue will remain a focal point in American politics, influencing his political goals and legacy.

Trump intended to appeal the judgement, arguing that the trial was unfair and biased. His legal team is anticipated to allege procedural flaws and probable juror misconduct to overturn the verdict. The consequences of this ruling are anticipated to reverberate throughout the legal and political spheres, emphasising the crucial necessity of integrity and openness in public office.

Regardless of being innocent or, as in this case, found guilty, we all must acknowledge that our actions when done in private will eventually be made public. Micah 6:8 states,
“But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don’t take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.”

As we embark on our next election, be mindful that our politicians stand in need of being covered in prayer. Around the world it is estimated approximately 50 will engage in major political elections. The political arena is often a very ruthless one, where even lives are at stake.

Let us be in prayer not only for where we put our 'X' but also for those who put their name forward on the ballot paper.